

Slide #2 - Agenda

- Here is our agenda for this session on Geographic Response Planning.
 - Three levels of planning
 - Geographic response planning overview
 - Existing planning initiatives
 - Amendments
 - Proposed policies
 - Next steps
 - Questions and discussion

Slide #3 – Three Tiered Planning

What are the three levels of planning:

- **ARPs** encompass a large area and provide a critical link to bring First Nations, local government and other vital stakeholders together to delineate roles and responsibilities during an emergency response.
- ARPs provide the overarching structure for integrated response:
 - Include important information on Unified Command, Information Management, Public Information and how to support those at the incident site
 - provide information for the other two tiers
- **GRPs** are designated by the minister and are within the ARP
 - GRPs are map based and include tables and photographs with descriptions of sensitive natural and cultural resources at risk from oil spills
 - GRPs identify strategies to minimize damage to those resources
 - GRPs provide set priorities to minimize damage in the initial stage of response
 - speed up initial response through immediate guidance
 - Provide information for other plans
- **A Spill Contingency Plan** is for a “Regulated Person’s” (company) own operations
 - focus on locations & corridors, and hazards within the area of operation of a “Regulated Person”
 - A Spill Contingency Plan demonstrates capability where operations pose hazards.

Slide #4 – What are Geographic Response Plans?

- I am going to go into a little more detail on what constitutes a Geographic Response Plans
- I would like remind you that it is the province’s intention to align our planning standards with our neighbours to the north and South. Alaska and Washington have been working on GRPs for 25+ years. We are looking for your input on how we can improve on their good work and create a World Leading standard.
- GRPs have 2 primary goals
 - First to provide proven tactical direction and response actions for the initial response - first 48 to 72 hours
 - Second to Identify sensitive resources (environmental, cultural and economic resources) at risk from oil spills

- GRPs are meant to aid the response community in the initial phase of a spill response – that is from the time that a spill occurs until a Unified Command is established.
- The plan prioritizes tactical response strategies based on locations where spills might occur (identifies Risk Bringers) and the proximity of those locations to sensitive resources.
- By using GRPs immediate and proper action can be taken to reduce impacts.
- When a spill occurs the top priority is to control and contain the spill at or near the source.
- But beyond containment efforts - booming and notification strategies should be implemented as soon as possible. Then using overflight information, spill trajectory models or circumstances unique to a particular situation adjust those response strategies accordingly.
- Sensitivity information found in GRPs is intended to support the Environmental Unit function during the response with specific details.
- The GRP allows agreements on priorities and placement of people and equipment to response before a spill happens, because the sensitivities have been identified, the strategies have been tested.
- They help ensure consistency and coordination in the way we protect sensitive resources during oil spills.
- Provides stakeholders including agencies, First Nations, communities and the public a voice on areas of concern or importance to them.
- And they will be publically available when complete.

Slide #5 – Why Have Geographic Response Plans?

- The result is GRPs provide Better preparedness (through directed response actions and terminology)
- AND Rapid response (by providing immediate guidance)
- TO Minimize damage from a spill

Slide #6 – Example – Washington State GRPs

- Here is a overall view of Washington state GRP development
 - There are currently 27 GRPs being worked on in Washington
 - The colors indicate the designated area of individual GRPs
 - They are typically associated with water bodies
 - Could be rivers, lakes or wetlands.
 - But also along transportation corridors dependent on sensitives in the area – for example Washington has established new areas as a result of the increased transportation of crude oil by unit trains in Washington
 - GRPs are a detailed **mapping based** document
 - identify sensitive resources at risk of impact following a spill from oil or other persistent hazardous materials and
- **It is important to note that GRP development is a collaborative and iterative process and Washington has been working on GRPs for 20 years**
- The old adage applies – how do you eat an Elephant??? One bite at a time.

Slide #7 – Existing Planning Initiatives

- BC GRP development will be inclusive of existing GRP planning initiatives.
- The goal is to create **consistent and public** plans acknowledging the efforts of all levels of government, industry and First Nations.
- **Some examples**

- Government Initiatives
 - ARP Pilot
 - Environment Canada
 - Shoreline mapping process on the north coast of BC
 - Industry Initiatives
 - WCMRC
 - Over the last three years, WCMRC has been working on a Coastal Mapping Program.
 - Including engagement from government agencies such as: Canadian Coast Guard, Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Environment, First Nations, and municipalities.
 - CN Rail
 - Hwy 16 Transportation Corridor Emergency Response Project
 - Mining
 - Mining companies in Northern BC have embarked upon GRP development for their properties to fulfill provincial imposed EA requirements
- First Nations Initiatives
 - The Marine Planning Partnership for the North Coast (MaPP) initiative is a partnership between the Province and 18 member First Nations that is planning for marine uses and long-term ocean health on B.C.'s North Pacific Coast.

Slide #8 – Before Amendments

- Before the amendments to *EMA*, GRPs were not required or regulated in B.C.

Slide #9 – After Amendments

- Now, new legislation will enable the Minister to order:
 - A GRP to be prepared for an area designated by the Minister.
 - Regulated persons operating in that area will be required to prepare, review, update and test GRP.
 - Set the Terms of Reference for the GRPs.
 - Establish advisory committee to advise on the development, review or testing of GRPs and reimbursement for their time.
 - Identify persons and organizations whose input must be considered in developing a GRP.
 - Public consultation.
 - The regulated person to pay the cost of developing, reviewing or testing the plan.
 - Publication requirements.

Slide #10 – Proposed Policies GRPs

- GRP development must be a collaborative based process – it will take many years to complete.
- Next slides to cover:
 - Government oversight
 - GRP Advisory committee
 - Content and form of GRPs
 - Public consultation
 - Publication
 - Review, testing and updating

Slide #11 – Proposed Government Oversight

- The Minister will designate plan areas /boundaries as stated in legislation - the Ministry is looking for input on who to involve as participants in determining geographic boundaries of GRPs and prioritize GRP development.
 - **For example:**
 - **Sites** determined by stakeholders through established criteria resulting in a recommendation to the Minister.
 - Through this process stakeholders could also evaluate and **prioritize** the list of potential GRP sites for the minister's consideration, as not all GRPs will be able to be developed at the same time.
- Site prioritization may be similar to Alaska, based on:
 - environmental sensitivity, Aboriginal importance and critical infrastructure,
 - risk of being impacted, and
 - the potential to protect the site using best available spill response tactics.
- There are currently no compliance and enforcement provisions associated with GRPs in the new legislation.

Slide #12 – Proposed GRP Advisory Committee

- The ministry's intent is to establish a GRP Advisory committee for the development and implementation of GRPs. How the selection process will work as well as the exact duties and responsibilities (terms of reference) are still under development and the Ministry is seeking input.
- In terms of duties and responsibilities, for each GRP, one model the ministry is considering could include:
 - The establishment of an advisory committee to ensure that knowledgeable experts advise and help with the development of the plan to ensure the plan is complete and addresses concerns for the designated area.
 - This model enables the Minister to specify at the time of issuing the order, the persons that must be consulted with, i.e. over and above a general public consultation to ensure that the plan is comprehensive in its content and is endorsed by all jurisdictions.
 - Membership is anticipated to have representatives from various stakeholder groups including local government, First Nations, environmental non-governmental organizations and impacted industry representatives as well as natural resource agencies (federal and provincial), and spill response experts.
 - Due to the focussed level of planning for GRPs, committee members would likely be local representatives.
 - As outlined in the last slide, it is anticipated that advisory committee members would make recommendations to the Minister on the following plan development topics:
 - Establish criteria to identify potential GRP sites;
 - Identify all sensitive areas under the criteria established;
 - Evaluate and prioritize potential GRP sites.

Slide #13 – Proposed Content and Form

- This slide can be found on page 66 of your Intentions Paper – Appendix E
- This is an example of some of the sections that will be established in the Terms of Reference of GRPs

- Site Description - discusses geography and geology, hydrology, climate and winds, tides or currents and risk assessments (Risks in area)
- Response Options - holds the bulk of the plan – it includes maps, tables and detailed strategies. It contains information on city/towns, First Nations interests, waterbodies, response options, considerations for the locations such access, land ownership, species, risks and maps of boat launches, staging areas, ICP locations.
 - Details within the strategies include how best to access (drive there), site contacts, safety hazards, equipment and personnel and a site photo.
 - The goal is that these plans will provide standardized tactics and terminology to ensure that responders from across the province have a common understanding of how to implement tactics but yet be flexible enough to be modified, as necessary, to fit the prevailing conditions at the time of a response. The document must also be easy to use, validate and update and inexpensive to produce.
 - The Ministry has proposed potential required content for GRPs in BC, which harmonizes with the states of Washington and Alaska, in the 3rd Intentions Paper and in your handout. We are currently seeking input on this proposed content.

Slide #14 – Public Consultation and Publication

- The Ministry is also seeking ideas on public consultation around GRPs and their publication.
- Regulations will specify what the public consultation process should entail, including standardized engagement requirements with opportunities for participation to consider FNs and local interests but what that looks like is still under consideration.
 - For example, draft GRPs could be available for a 45-day consultation period on the internet for comment. Consultation input is reviewed and the draft GRP is then finalized and published.
- Regulations will also specify requirements for the publication of plans on which the Ministry is seeking feedback.
 - For example, Plans could be published and available online to the public within a specified timeframe.

Slide #15 – Review Testing and Updating

- The review, testing and updating of plans offers a further opportunity for First Nations and local governments to be involved in GRP initiatives and for industry and response agencies to learn local knowledge that is critical during a spill response. The development, review, testing and updating process should increase public awareness of response plans and provide the opportunity to practice and connect with all parties before an incident occurs.
- The ministry is examining requirements around the review, testing and updating of plans and seeking input. One possible option could be:
 - GRPs reviewed in five-year cycles to include any relevant updates and proven technologies or procedures.
 - In between plan updates and actual spill events, tests, drills or physical changes in the area, may require a refinement or change to the strategies published in the plan. As in Washington State, these “modified” strategies could be included in an updated plan. In the meantime, a list of pending updates could be kept and considered before published response and notification strategies are deployed.

Slide #16 – Summary

- Summary of areas the ministry continues to seek input on.
- Government Oversight

- Advisory Committees
- Content and Form
- Public Consultation
- Publication
- Review and updating
- Testing and updating

Slide #17 – Next Steps

- In terms of next steps, the Ministry's intent is to gather input through response to the 3rd intentions paper and today's workshop discussions with a technical working group to follow. Input will then be used in developing future requirements.

Slide #18 – Discussion

Slide #19 – Thank You

Slide #20 - Feedback