SUMMARY: BC/AK Bilateral Working Group  
Thursday, April 20, 2017 - 1:00 – 2:30 PM PST; 12:00 – 1:30 PM AKST  
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, Ministry of Environment  
- Anthony Danks, Executive Director, Strategic Policy, Ministry of Environment  
- Lisa Paquin, Director, Intergovernmental and External Relations, Ministry of Environment  
- Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Columbia River Treaty Review Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines  
- Robyn Roome, Regional Director, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment  
- Fraser Marshall, Executive Director, Corporate Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines  
- Caitlin Copage, Sr. Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy, Ministry of Environment  

Alaska:  
- Commissioner Larry Hartig, Department of Environmental Conservation  
- Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels, Department of Natural Resources  
- Deputy Commissioner Alice Edwards, Department of Environmental Conservation  
- Deputy Commissioner Fred Parady, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
- David Rogers, Director, Department of Fish and Game  
- Michelle Hale, Director, Department of Environmental Conservation  
- Albert Kookesh, Special Staff Assistant, Office of the Governor  
- Terri Lomax, Section Manager, Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program, Department of Environmental Conservation  
- Kyle Moselle, Large Mine Project Manager, Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources

SUMMARY:  
1. BC/AK – Intro and Updates  
   o January 26, 2017 meeting summary approved  
   o BC: Mining developments – Brucejack Mine now has a transmission line and progress toward production continues.  
   o AK: Salmon State workshop, “Water Quality and Transboundary Rivers,” May 2 – 4, Juneau Alaska – organized and attended by NGOs in AK, BC and MT  
   o ACTION - BC: Aquatic Ecological Risk Assessment (AERA) for Tulsequah Chief to be published after June, 2017; BC to share advance notice of publication.  
   o ACTION – BC: Mount Polley Mine was granted a waste discharge permit for a location in Quesnel Lake after consultation with scientists, local communities, and First Nations. BC to share information on this permit with AK.

   o Robyn Roome delivered a summary of the draft preliminary program description and two-year workplan drafted by the TWG-M  
   o Discussion: Clarity that the scope of work does not include determination or analysis of impacts, but data collection and publication.  
   o BWG agrees that the draft preliminary program description and two-year workplan is a robust foundation for further work by the TWG-M.  
   o BWG agreed that implementation of monitoring elements described in the draft plan does not need to wait for approval of the final program description.  
   o BWG agreed to approve the draft in principal to allow for consultation with First Nations and Tribes, as well as refinement of options and opportunities to seek funding partners.
BC noted that final approval of the plan and any required provincial funding would need to wait for decision from the incoming government.

**ACTION:** TWG-M will bring back the program description and two-year workplan for final review and approval of the BWG at the next meeting (July – September, 2017.)

3. Review Materials: Reciprocal Procedures
   - Kyle Moselle delivered a summary of the draft reciprocal procedures
   - Discussion: Clarity that the reciprocal procedures intend to capture EA, permitting, and other projects that may have impacts on transboundary waters.
   - Noted that the procedures are intended to be practical, pragmatic and efficient. Document is intended to be ‘living’ and amended as necessary to suit the needs of each jurisdiction – e.g., section 5 includes placeholders for BC’s participation in the AK permitting process.
   - BC noted that the procedures outlined do not restrict either jurisdiction from sharing additional information on particular projects of interest.
   - BWG agreed to approve the reciprocal procedures in principle, pending opportunities to engage with Tribes, noting that this is an interagency agreement only between BC and AK.
   - **ACTION:** BC and AK to review draft reciprocal procedures in context of other commercial project types, and AK to engage with Tribes; BWG will consider the draft at the next BWG meeting (July – September, 2017.)

4. Review Materials: Communications Plan
   - Fraser Marshall delivered a summary of the draft communications plan
   - Minor edit noted – “on demand” to be revised to “as needed” on frequency of the newsletter and distribution of information.
   - First newsletter would be drafted and target release for June / July, 2017
   - BWG approves communications plan in principle, pending consultation with AK Tribes.
   - **ACTION:** BC and AK to begin drafting first newsletter; AK to consult with Tribes. Review at the next meeting of BWG (July – September, 2017.)

5. Next steps and next meeting of BWG
   - Discussion: interregnum period and transition to incoming government in BC – business as usual continues during interregnum, but no new policy or major budgetary decisions are decided during the “caretaker period.” Incoming government will be in place in mid-June, 2017. BC confirmed there will be opportunities for transition of this work if necessary, and BC will remain chair of BWG.
   - AK: Request for discussion at next meeting of broader picture around mining and updates to processes and procedures (e.g., BC’s actions to respond to recommendations from the Auditor General’s report; financial securities, water quality monitoring processes, etc.)
   - **ACTION:** BC to share Mining Day News Release and additional fact sheets from the Ministry of Energy and Mines.
   - **ACTION:** BC to prepare a meeting summary and arrange the next quarterly BWG meeting for July – September; arrangements to be made following BC’s interregnum period.