

**E.8 Contaminated Sites Review – An Update**

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### *Contaminated Sites Update*



7<sup>th</sup> Annual BC Metal Leaching/ARD  
Workshop  
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### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- On April 1, 1997 amendments to the *Waste Management Act* became law and the Contaminated Sites Regulation came into effect
- Defined a contaminated site - numeric standards for soil and water
- Mines were included



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- Gave legal decision-making power to Regional Waste Managers (MELP) to make determinations to identify a contaminated site, to request site investigations, and order remediation
- Formally addressed environmental liability
  - past and present owners, operators, and producers and transporters of contaminants



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- Resulted in a major duplication of responsibilities between Chief Inspector and the Regional Waste Manager



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- The Contaminated Sites Regulation - legal review period to evaluate the management of this regulation
- Review conducted by the Contaminated Sites Implementation Committee (CSIC) chaired by MELP
- Mining issues addressed through a Mining Subcommittee



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- Mining Subcommittee - industry, environmental groups and government
- The subcommittee developed a number of options but failed to reach consensus
- MEM and MELP established an *ad hoc* committee to work toward resolving administrative issues



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- o The *ad hoc* committee is working on:
  - o Updated Terms of Reference for the Reclamation Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Regional Mine Development Review Committees
  - o Reclamation Security/Bonding Protocol
  - o Dispute Resolution Mechanism
  - o Mine Specific Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment
- o Mining Subcommittee will re-convene to review



### *Contaminated Sites Update*

- o Liability
  - o An independent contractor was hired to undertake a comprehensive review of the liability provisions for mine reclamation and environmental protection of land and waterbodies under the *Waste Management Act* and *Mines Act*
  - o Report is scheduled to be released in early December