

(An) Update on Alberta Environment's 2008 Draft Soil Monitoring Directive

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Alberta Environment released its 2008 Draft Soil Monitoring Directive for public consultation this past summer. The regulatory framework in this province has changed significantly since the publication of Alberta Environment's 1996 Soil Monitoring Directive and 1996 Guideline for Monitoring and Management of Soil Contamination under EPEA Approvals. Soil monitoring and soil management for contamination have become important regulatory tools to screen and mitigate contamination caused by substance release to soil and groundwater environments. Facilities operating under an Approval may have these requirements to conduct soil monitoring and soil management on a prescribed basis.

We have consolidated the foregoing two 1996 documents and the shared components of Approvals into the 2008 Draft Soil Monitoring Directive. The new document contains three major sections: baseline soil assessment, operational soil monitoring program and soil management program. The revised Directive will provide linkages to updated soil and groundwater quality standards, outline updated regulatory requirements and professional guidance for conducting these investigations, and significantly strengthen the reporting functions to align with the new regulatory framework in Alberta.

This presentation will explain the background of the 2008 Draft Soil Monitoring Directive, provide an update on the major sections of the document, and outline the processes towards finalizing the document.

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Chi Chen is an Environmental Soil Specialist with Alberta Environment. He has a Ph.D. in Soil Science, Soil Genesis and Classification, from the University of Alberta. Over the past 10 years, he has worked in the areas of soil science, land remediation and reclamation. At Alberta Environment, he has provided regulatory reviews on projects ranging from environmental impact assessments, soil monitoring, soil management, land reclamation and policy development. Currently, his work focuses on development and integration of policy tools to advance the monitoring, evaluation and reporting functions on land contamination. He has served as a project lead for several projects on these areas.