

CANADA-WIDE STANDARDS FOR PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS IN SOIL

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR YUKON TERRITORY

General Accountability:

Approximately 90% of contaminated sites in the Yukon involve petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) contamination. As with PHC contaminated sites in other jurisdictions, these sites may impair the quality and use of both land and water. Management of these sites across Canada varied considerably and generally lacked an adequate scientific basis. This can result in either the over-management or under-management of a PHC contaminated site. Over-management results in over-remediation, which in turn limits land sale transactions and real estate redevelopment. Under-managed sites continue to pose risks to human and environmental health.

The PHC Canada-Wide Standard (PHC CWS) for soil was developed to address these issues and to provide a consistent, scientific basis for standards in all jurisdictions. It is a remediation standard that sets out the levels to which site contaminated by PHC must be cleaned up to – if and when they are subject to remediation.

The PHC CWS sets out generic target levels, as well as a process for generating site-specific numbers, that are protective of both human and ecological health. The standard is risk-based, having been founded on the most recent and comprehensive body of science.

Milestones and Deliverables:

The PHC CWS is unique in that it does not include a specific timeframe for implementation. Jurisdictions, including the Yukon, agreed to review current programs and tools, and as required, develop and activate implementation plans to integrate the PHC CWS or ensure equal or better protection.

The Yukon intends to implement the PHC CWS by amending the existing *Contaminated Sites Regulation* to incorporate the PHC CWS. This will replace the existing standards in the Yukon CSR with the detailed three tiered approach of the PHC CWS.

Public Role:

The public will have an opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the PHC CWS through the public consultation process that is part of any amendments to regulations under the *Environment Act*.

Access to Information:

Information on the implementation of the PHC CWS will be available to the public on the Department of Environment website, as well as in hardcopy from territorial libraries and government agent offices.

Co-Benefits:

The remediation of PHC-contaminated sites will result in reductions of other contaminants, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and some metals.