

**CANADA-ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENTAL OCCURRENCES NOTIFICATION AGREEMENT  
(the "Agreement")**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

as represented by the federal Minister of the Environment  
and the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
("Canada")

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA**

as represented by the Alberta Minister of Environment  
("Alberta")

(collectively, the "Parties")

**WHEREAS** both Canada and Alberta are committed to attaining the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians and to preserve the natural environment;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment endorsed the *Statement of Interjurisdictional Cooperation on Environmental Matters* (1990) to provide an overall framework for effective intergovernmental cooperation on environmental matters;

**AND WHEREAS** Canada and Alberta recognize that there is a benefit to adopting a cooperative approach to reduce administrative duplication resulting from comparable legislative and regulatory provisions and that there is a need to specify the procedures of this approach in an agreement;

**AND WHEREAS** the federal Minister of the Environment has the responsibility for administering and enforcing sections 36 to 42 of the *Fisheries Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14;

**AND WHEREAS** section 9 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, S.C. 1999, c. 33 (*CEPA, 1999*), authorizes the federal Minister of the Environment, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to enter into an agreement with a government;

**AND WHEREAS** section 5 of the *Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-15, authorizes the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to enter into agreements with the government of any province or any agency thereof respecting the carrying out of programs for which the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible;

**AND WHEREAS** section 19 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. E-12, authorizes the Alberta Minister of Environment to enter into agreements relating to any matter pertaining to the environment with the government of another jurisdiction or an agency of that government;

**AND WHEREAS** the Governor in Council, by Order in Council «insert the reference», has approved that the federal Minister of the Environment and the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of Canada, enter into this Agreement with Alberta;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual premises contained in this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This is an Agreement between Canada and Alberta establishing procedures for the receipt and timely transfer of information between the Parties concerning the notification of environmental occurrences.

This Agreement amends the 1994 Canada-Alberta Administrative Agreement for the Control of Deposits of Deleterious Substances under the *Fisheries Act* (the "1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement"), with respect to the notification of environmental occurrences.

## **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

In this Agreement, the terms below shall have the following meanings:

"aboriginal land" means aboriginal land as defined in subsection 3(1) of *CEPA, 1999*;

"Annual Average Percentage Changes for the Consumer Price Index – All Items, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, Provinces, Urban Centres" means the annual average percentage change for Canada regarding the Consumer Price Index – All items, not seasonally adjusted, Canada, provinces, urban centres, established annually by Statistics Canada;

"*CEPA, 1999*" means the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, S.C. 1999, c. 33, as amended;

"Consumer Price Index" means an indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians, obtained by comparing through time the cost of a fixed basket of commodities purchased by consumers;

"deleterious substance" means deleterious substance as defined in subsection 34(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;

"deposit" means deposit as defined in subsection 34(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;

"Environment Canada" means the federal Department of the Environment;

"environmental occurrence" means:

- (a) a release of a substance into the environment, or the likelihood thereof, in contravention of a regulation described in section 95, 169, 179 or 212, or in contravention of an order described in section 95, of *CEPA, 1999*;
- (b) an environmental emergency under section 201 of *CEPA, 1999*;
- (c) a deposit of a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish, as described in subsection 38(4) of the *Fisheries Act*, or the serious and imminent danger of such a deposit;
- (d) other environmental incidents of federal interest; or
- (e) a request for Environment Canada's emergency scientific or technical expertise;

"federal land" means federal land as defined in subsection 3(1) of *CEPA, 1999*;

“*Fisheries Act*” means the *Fisheries Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14, as amended;

“Fisheries and Oceans Canada” means the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans;

“notification” or “notify” means the transfer of any information concerning an environmental occurrence by a person to Canada or Alberta by means of its twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) notification system (which includes Alberta’s 24/7 toll-free telephone line), but does not refer to the written follow-up reports as may be required under *CEPA, 1999* or the *Fisheries Act*;

“other environmental incidents of federal interest” include the following:

- (a) a release or deposit of a substance harmful to the environment, other than a release or deposit that is subject to *CEPA, 1999* or the *Fisheries Act*, that occurs on federal land or aboriginal land;
- (b) a release of a substance that causes or threatens to cause adverse effects to public safety, security, health or welfare, to the environment or to property along an interjurisdictional or international boundary; and
- (c) a release of a substance that is of a magnitude that causes or threatens to cause substantial adverse effects to public safety, security, health or welfare, to the environment or to property of Canadian citizens;

“release” means release as defined in subsection 3(1) of *CEPA, 1999*;

“Statistics Canada” means Canada’s national statistical agency.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

**3.1** provide an effective and efficient system for persons required to notify the appropriate authorities of environmental occurrences, in accordance with federal and provincial legislation; and

**3.2** provide an effective and efficient system for Alberta to receive and advise Environment Canada of any notification of an environmental occurrence received by Alberta.

### **4.0 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **4.1 Establishment**

The Parties shall establish a Management Committee to oversee the implementation of this Agreement. The Management Committee shall include an equal number of federal and provincial officials appointed respectively by the Parties.

#### **4.2 Co-chairs**

The Management Committee shall be jointly chaired by a representative of Canada and a representative of Alberta. The co-chairs shall be considered members of the Management Committee.

### **4.3 Operation**

**4.3.1** The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of once per fiscal year (April to March) or upon the written request of one of the Parties, at a place and time mutually agreed to by the co-chairs.

**4.3.2** When a member of the Management Committee will be absent from a Committee meeting, the Party who appointed that member shall appoint a replacement for this member.

**4.3.3** All decisions of the Management Committee shall be made on a consensus basis. In the case that the Management Committee cannot reach a consensus, the outstanding issue shall be submitted to the Contacts identified in section 13.0 of this Agreement.

**4.3.4** The Management Committee may establish procedures for the administration and operation of the Committee.

**4.3.5** Notwithstanding the expiry or termination of this Agreement, the Management Committee shall have six months to complete its activities following the expiry or termination.

### **4.4 Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Management Committee include the following:

**4.4.1** establishing standard operating procedures:

- (a) for the collection and processing of notifications of environmental occurrences received by Alberta under this Agreement, as well as for the transmittal of this information by Alberta to Environment Canada; and
- (b) for the collection and processing of notifications of environmental occurrences in Alberta received by Environment Canada under this Agreement, as well as for the transmittal of this information by Environment Canada to Alberta.

**4.4.2** exploring opportunities and implementing changes that enhance the effectiveness of information management (including, but not limited to, information receipt, transfer and archiving, and notification generation);

**4.4.3** establishing performance standards regarding information management (including, but not limited to, information receipt, transfer and archiving, and notification generation);

**4.4.4** reviewing the administration of this Agreement on an annual basis;

**4.4.5** within the two weeks following every Management Committee meeting, preparing minutes and transmitting these minutes to the members of the Management Committee; and

**4.4.6** making written recommendations to the Contacts identified in section 13.0 of this Agreement on the potential need to revise this Agreement, as and where appropriate, and consolidating in a finalized document all written recommendations no later than six months before the expiry of this Agreement.

## **5.0 ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1 Notification of an Environmental Occurrence**

**5.1.1** Alberta and Environment Canada agree to maintain and monitor a 24/7 notification system to receive, assess, and document the notification of environmental occurrences.

**5.1.2** Alberta agrees to maintain and operate a 24/7 toll-free telephone line, as part of its 24/7 notification system.

**5.1.3** Upon receiving a notification of an environmental occurrence, Alberta agrees to advise Environment Canada in accordance with the standard operating procedures, as amended from time to time, established under section 4.4.1 of this Agreement.

**5.1.4** In the event that Environment Canada receives a notification of an environmental occurrence in Alberta, Environment Canada agrees to advise Alberta in accordance with the standard operating procedures, as amended from time to time, established under section 4.4.1 of this Agreement.

**5.1.5** Alberta agrees to provide mutually acceptable access to the audio recordings of telephone calls related to the notification of environmental occurrences for at least two years following the date on which the calls were received.

**5.1.6** Environment Canada agrees to publicize Alberta's 24/7 toll-free telephone line through various means, including printed publications and on-line announcements or notices.

## **5.2 Transfer of Written Information Related to the Notification of an Environmental Occurrence**

**5.2.1** Alberta agrees to provide Environment Canada with electronic copies of the records of environmental occurrence notifications that Alberta receives, in accordance with the standard operating procedures, as amended from time to time, established under section 4.4.1 of this Agreement.

**5.2.2** Environment Canada agrees to provide Alberta with electronic copies of the records of environmental occurrence notifications that Environment Canada receives, in accordance with the standard operating procedures, as amended from time to time, established under section 4.4.1 of this Agreement.

## **5.3 Provision of Other Information**

Environment Canada agrees to provide Alberta with training and information sessions, without cost to Alberta, on an annual basis, or more frequently if either Party deems it to be necessary, concerning Canada's information requirements related to this Agreement.

## **5.4 Provision of Bilingual Service**

In accordance with the *Official Languages Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 31 [4th Supp.], Environment Canada agrees to provide 24/7 telephone support service to Alberta for the receipt of notifications of environmental occurrences made in French, without cost to Alberta and in accordance with the standard operating procedures, as amended from time to time, established under section 4.4.1 of this Agreement.

## **6.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY**

**6.1** The Parties expressly acknowledge that their respective access to information and protection of privacy legislation shall be applicable to information received pursuant to this Agreement and agree to work together to honour and respect each other's legal obligations under that legislation.

**6.2** The Parties agree to provide each other with notice of any application for access to information received pursuant to this Agreement.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

In support of the operation and maintenance of Alberta's 24/7 notification system, the following financial provisions apply:

**7.1** Alberta shall provide an invoice for payment in the amount of \$50 000 for services rendered during the fiscal year during which this Agreement comes into effect. This invoice shall be sent between March 10 and March 31 of that fiscal year. Environment Canada shall make a payment to Alberta for that amount, within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

**7.2** For each subsequent fiscal year after the Agreement comes into effect, Alberta shall provide an invoice for payment that corresponds to the payment made in the previous fiscal year, indexed in accordance with the Annual Average Percentage Changes for the Consumer Price Index – All Items, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, Provinces, Urban Centres, for the calendar year that immediately precedes the fiscal year for which payment is being requested, for the services rendered between April 1 and March 31 of that subsequent fiscal year. Alberta shall send its invoice to Environment Canada between March 10 and March 31 of the fiscal year during which the services are rendered. Upon receipt of this invoice from Alberta, Environment Canada shall make a payment to Alberta for that amount, within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

## **8.0 INTERPRETATION**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as:

**8.1** having an impact on the distribution of Constitutional powers between the two Parties;

**8.2** restricting in any way the respective authority of Canada or Alberta to enforce its statutes or regulations; or

**8.3** modifying the application of any statute or regulation in effect in Canada or in Alberta.

## **9.0 DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

**9.1** This Agreement comes into effect on the day on which the federal *Release and Environmental Emergency Notification Regulations* and the federal *Deposit Out of the Normal Course of Events Notification Regulations* come into force.

**9.2** This Agreement terminates five years after the date on which it comes into effect, in accordance with subsection 9(7) of *CEPA, 1999*, or at a later date, in accordance with any future amendments to subsection 9(7).

**9.3** This Agreement may be terminated earlier by either Party giving the other Party at least three months notice.

**9.4** Should any amendments be made to subsection 9(7) of *CEPA, 1999* to reduce or eliminate the minimum requirement of at least three months notice of early termination, the Parties agree that the Agreement may be terminated early by either Party giving the other Party at least three months notice.

**9.5** Notwithstanding sections 9.3 and 9.4, each Party agrees to make all reasonable efforts to provide the other Party with at least six months written notice of the early termination of this Agreement.

## **10.0 AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement may be amended from time to time, in writing, by consent of the Parties and subject to any necessary approval of the Governor in Council.

## **11.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any disputes regarding the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement will be resolved by consultation between the Parties and will not be referred to a tribunal, court or any other third party for settlement.

## **12.0 CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

**12.1** Pursuant to section 8 of the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement, this Agreement amends the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement as follows:

**12.1.1** by deleting sections 2.1 and 3.0 of Annex 2 to the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement;

**12.1.2** by deleting the following definition in section 1.0 of the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement: “EP”;

**12.1.3** by adding the following definition to section 1.0 of the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement:

“Alberta Ministry of Environment” means the Ministry of Environment for the province of Alberta;

**12.1.4** by stating that, in the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement, all references to “EP” are to be replaced with “Alberta Ministry of Environment”;

**12.1.5** by replacing sections 4.3 to 4.7 of Annex 2 to the 1994 *Fisheries Act* Agreement with the following:

**4.3** The Alberta Ministry of Environment will be the lead response agency for releases in Alberta with the exception of releases on federal lands, works or undertakings.

**4.4** The Alberta Ministry of Environment will be the lead response agency for releases involving a deposit of a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish, releases which are likely to result in harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, and releases involving or which may affect lands or waters outside of the territorial boundaries of Alberta, unless agreed otherwise by the Parties on a case by case basis.

**4.5** Environment Canada will act as a support agency for releases involving a deposit of a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish, releases which are likely to result in harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, and releases involving or which may affect lands or waters outside of the territorial boundaries of Alberta, and as requested for specific releases.

**4.6** Environment Canada will be the lead response agency for releases on federal lands, works or undertakings.

**4.7** The Alberta Ministry of Environment will act as a support agency for releases on federal lands, works or undertakings.

**13.0 CONTACTS**

The following persons are the Contacts for this Agreement:

Director  
Environmental Protection Operations  
Directorate  
Prairie and Northern Region  
Environment Canada

Director  
Alberta Environment Support and Emergency  
Response Team  
Alberta Ministry of Environment

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Agreement has been executed on behalf of Canada by the federal Minister of the Environment and by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and on behalf of Alberta by the Alberta Minister of Environment.

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of the Environment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Environment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date