



AR 51992

March 4, 2013

Mr. Glen Semenchuk
Executive Director
Cumulative Environmental Management Association
214, 9914 Morrison Street
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 4A4

Dear Mr. Semenchuk:

Thank you for sharing with me the report prepared by the Cumulative Environmental Management Association on the Criteria and Indicators Framework for Oil Sands Mine Reclamation Certification and associated recommendations to the Government of Alberta.

It is our position that the Criteria and Indicators Framework for Oil Sands Mine Reclamation Certification is necessary to eventually support the information, data, and content requirements required for an oil sands mine reclamation certification application.

It is our intent that the Criteria and Indicators Framework for Oil Sands Mine Reclamation Certification will be considered one of a suite of tools that will provide direction and guidance related to reclamation planning and certification for industry, regulators, and stakeholders; however, it cannot be considered the only tool for reclamation planning and certification.

We note that many of the indicators require further development and evaluation before they can be included in the Criteria and Indicators Framework for Oil Sands Mine Reclamation Certification. We further note that field demonstration and assessment of the indicators currently included in the framework is required on actual reclamation areas.

The department supports the four recommendations put forward by the Cumulative Environmental Management Association Board of Directors. In particular, we agree that additional work and financial support for that work is required to further the development of the suite of indicators in the framework, and that implementation of the framework will be an adaptive process.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development will work with oil sands mine operators to field test and develop an implementation plan for the Criteria and Indicators Framework for Oil Sands Mine Reclamation Certification outside of the Cumulative Environmental Management Association process. The department also recommends that further development of the suite of indicators continue within the Cumulative Environmental Management Association's Reclamation Working Group, with consideration of the results from any field tests or validation exercises.

Thank you again for sharing this report and recommendations. I appreciate the three years of research, stakeholder consultation, and review by industry, stakeholders and government that were expended to prepare this report.

Sincerely,



Dana Woodworth
Deputy Minister

cc: Jim Ellis
Deputy Minister of Energy