
Press Release



October 4, 2010

CEMA Welcomes New Members and forms New Air Working Group

Fort McMurray, Alberta – The Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) has two new members; the Fort McMurray Environmental Association (FMEA) and the Oil Sands Research and Information Network (OSRIN). The two newest CEMA members were unanimously approved by the CEMA Board at its most recent meeting and will sit as the 7th and 8th members of CEMA's Environmental Non Profit Group (ENGO) caucus.

The CEMA Board also approved the formation of a new Air Working Group. Previously CEMA had conducted air research through its two working groups, the Trace Metals and NO_x/SO₂, but future studies will be united into one Air Working Group. The purpose of the Air Group is to develop recommendations for regional air quality and air-related deposition management. The focus is on emissions associated with industrial development that have the potential to significantly contribute to cumulative effects on air quality, human health, and/or regional ecosystems, including vegetation and wildlife.

“CEMA has made tremendous improvements over the past 18 months to address concerns of the environmental community.” added Ann Dort-McLean, President of the Fort McMurray Environmental Association. “It’s because of CEMA’s new structure, mission and work plan that FMEA have decided to rejoin.”

“We are very pleased to be accepted into CEMA, and the partnership is a natural fit.” stated OSRIN Executive Director Chris Powter. “CEMA is currently conducting scientific research into reclamation in the oil sands region and their work plan is complementary to OSRIN’s mandate.”

“The addition of these new members notes the importance of CEMA’s ongoing restructuring. To have two very well known and respected members of the environmental community will only strengthen our future work plans.” commented Glen Semenchuk, CEMA Executive Director. “While visiting communities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, CEMA always hears peoples’ concerns about air. We hope that our new Air Working Group will help address some of those concerns.”

OSRIN is a university-based, independent organization that compiles, interprets and analyses available knowledge about returning landscapes and water impacted by oil sands mining to a natural state and gets that knowledge into the hands of those who can use it to drive breakthrough improvements in reclamation regulations and practices.

Fort McMurray Environmental Association is member of the Oil Sands Environmental Coalition. FMEA, a grass-roots organization based locally in Fort McMurray over the past decade, continues to be a leader in the environmental community in Alberta.

CEMA is a multi-stakeholder society that is a key advisor to the provincial and federal governments committed to respectful, inclusive dialogue to make recommendations to manage the cumulative environmental effects of regional development on air, land, water and biodiversity.

For a copy of the Air Working Group’s Terms of Reference or more information please visit www.cemaonline.ca or <http://www.osrin.ualberta.ca/> contact:

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