

Press Release



December 12, 2011

CEMA receives 5 million from Oilsands Operators

Fort McMurray, Alberta – The Oil Sands Developers Group (OSDG), an industry association representing companies actively engaged in the development of Canada's Athabasca oil sands region, announced that its members will contribute \$5 million towards the Cumulative Environmental Management Association's (CEMA) \$9.6 million 2012 work plan.

"Our working groups, comprised of members from industry, government, aboriginal and non-government groups, operate diligently to put together annual work plans to address cumulative environmental issues. Over the last dozen years there has been a strong partnership between CEMA and the oilsands operators, who have contributed the vast majority of CEMA funding, with Alberta Environment and Water and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development contributing the balance. The provincial government departments funding has remained consistent for 2012 but this year's funding announcement from OSDG members represents a little over fifty percent of the CEMA Board approved work plan" said Glen Semenchuk, CEMA Executive Director. "CEMA is now facing a significant budget shortfall for its 2012 operations. We plan to mount an aggressive campaign to seek additional funding from various sources including individual oil sands operators, other levels of government and non-government funding organizations, who share CEMA goals."

Semenchuk added, "There is a continued expansion of both mining and in-situ operations as seen by the recent approval of the Joslyn oil sands mine project. Many of our stakeholders feel that this increased concentration of development requires further research on the cumulative environmental effects of these projects as we do not yet have all the answers. The \$5 million from the oilsands operators represents a 15 % reduction from their contribution to the 2011 work plan. CEMA's world class research is widely referenced in government regulations and policies as well as in industry's

applications to provincial and federal agencies. With this reduction some of the future research will be deferred or eliminated.”

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 more information please visit www.cemaonline.ca

-30-

Corey Hobbs
CEMA Communications
780-881-4943
Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca