



TERMS OF REFERENCE AQUATICS SUB-GROUP (ASG)

Updated by ASG: December 8th, 2009

Approved by RWG: March 5th, 2010

PURPOSE

The ASG is a sub-group of the Reclamation Working Group (RWG). The ASG will provide guidance and produce tools that facilitate the establishment of sustainable aquatic ecosystems on the reclaimed landscape within the Athabasca oil sands region.

OBJECTIVES

To develop recommendations that support establishment, assessment, monitoring, criteria & indicators for certification and adaptive management of reclaimed aquatics ecosystems on oil sands leases in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

This will be accomplished through the development and maintenance of the following guidance documents and decision support tools:

- a guidance document for wetland & aquatics establishment;
- a guidance document for end pit lake establishment;
- other aquatic reclamation guidance documents and tools as agreed upon by the RWG (e.g., riparian areas and streams); and
- predictive models for the assessment of end pit lake and wetland development scenarios.

These guidance documents will support the creation of a range of sustainable aquatic ecosystems in reclaimed landscapes. The ASG will provide these guidance documents as recommendations to the RWG.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

The ASG will operate in a manner that is consistent with the principles, rules, policies, and procedures adopted by CEMA. The ASG will follow CEMA's policies and guidelines.

The ASG will:

- oversee, coordinate, and integrate the work of task groups that focus on the development of guidance documents for specific aspects of reclamation and closure as they relate to wetlands, aquatics and end pit lakes;
- develop a greater understanding of all resource development operations, reclamation technologies and government regulations and policy as they relate to wetlands, aquatics and end pit lakes;
- contribute to proactive and progressive integration of closure and reclamation planning across all industrial developments and within the regional context;
- make recommendations to RWG on regional reclamation planning and management, regulation and policy as they relate to wetlands, aquatics and end pit lakes;
- Identify additional reclamation research to address knowledge gaps for guidance documents as they relate to wetlands, aquatics and end pit lakes. This may result in the formation of task groups and recommending research related to reclamation; and
- Conduct other activities as agreed to by the ASG and RWG members.

The ASG will consider the need to formally interface with other CEMA working groups and, through RWG, other related groups.

Chairpersons are nominated by the membership and are selected by consensus by the ASG. The term for a chairperson is two years. The ASG will strive to have two chairpersons at a time, with overlapping terms to ensure effective transition. The ASG will also strive to have one chairperson from industry and one chairperson from Government/First Nations/Non-Governmental Organizations at any given time.



REPORT TO RWG

Key ASG deliverables to be submitted to the RWG are listed in Table 1. The ASG will be prepared to provide a progress report at each RWG meeting. This Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated every two years. This will allow for a review and confirmation of the ASG purpose and objectives by RWG Members.

Table 1: Key ASG deliverables and their timelines.

Deliverable	Deliverable Completion Timeline
Guideline for the Establishment of Wetlands on Reclaimed Oil Sands Leases	Reviewed every five years and updated as necessary. Next revision expected for Q4 2012. Versions include: 1999 & 2007.
End Pit Lake Technical Guidance Document (for oil sands mining)	Reviewed every five years and updated as necessary. Next revision expected for Q4 2012.
Annual Report	Q2 every year
Annual Strategic Planning Meeting	Q1 every year

MEMBERSHIP

Any member of CEMA is eligible to join the ASG. The ASG will seek to maintain broad stakeholder representation. Details of membership responsibilities and chair rotation can be found in CEMA's policies and procedures.

An ASG member is expected to:

- be able to attend and participate on a regular, consistent basis;
- be fully informed and up to date about the subjects to be discussed at meetings;
- contribute to meetings; and
- accept and abide by CEMA's policies and guidelines.