

## **CSAP Members' Update Spring 2024**

### **Message from the President**

Happy springtime everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the longer days (and I don't mean by working more).

As our members will have seen, ENV recently made significant changes to the scenarios requiring a preapproval. I welcome these changes as I believe this will have a tangible effect in reducing timelines overall, which in turn will benefit our clients. Reducing administrative timelines is always a welcome outcome, especially since so many of our applications are related to housing developments. We continue to work with ENV to identify opportunities where we can provide support and potentially help reduce their queue. On a somewhat related note, I would encourage our members to provide feedback on ENV's proposed P19 changes.

At CSAP, we finished the fiscal year with more submissions than anticipated. In particular, we saw even more Approvals in Principle than last year as well as a corresponding uptick in the number of Certificates of Compliance applications that have an AiP in place. The CSAP Operations team has done a great job keeping pace.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and PD Workshop in June and I hope folks can stick around for the happy hour afterwards.

Andrew Sorensen

### **Performance Assessment Committee and Preliminary and Detail Administrative Screening Committee Updates**

#### **Site Risk Classification Reporting for Affected Parcels**

Separate SRCRs are not always required for affected parcels but depend on site circumstances and on the type of trigger which applies. For a "NOM" trigger, the Source Site only requires an SRCR if there are no UCCs. If there are UCCs at the Source Site, then the Source Site also requires an SRCR + EPQ. If there are UCCs at the off-site Affected Parcel, then the Affected Parcel also requires an EPQ. If the off-site Affected Parcel is or likely is HR (as noted on the NOM), then the off-site Affected Parcel also requires a separate SRCR + EPQ if there are UCCs (which may not always be the case if HR due to mobile NAPL).

New SRCRs can arise when a **new** trigger for Affected Parcels presents itself subsequent to the NOM. Using the example above (i.e. NOM trigger, SRCR applies to the source site, assume the source site is not HR, with no UCC exceedances), a client submits a NIRI for the Affected Parcel. The Affected Parcel would require an SRCR, despite not requiring one under the NOM trigger. There are also a multitude of exemptions, which practitioners must determine if any apply to the Source Site or Affected Parcels.

## **DRA vs SLRA**

For a recent submission, SLRA was applied for a risk-based COC application to RL<sub>LD</sub> standards. Contaminated soil in the upper 1 m is present within a small area of the Site situated around an existing tree, having metals concentrations exceeding CSR Sch 3.1 Part 3 Eco Health and/or Toxicity to soil invertebrates and plants. The soil contamination did not appear to extend below a 1 m depth and the area was covered with concrete, which will remain as part of the Site's redevelopment.

Section 3.2 of Protocol 13 indicates this protocol must not be used at contaminated sites where any of the following conditions are present: *"deep-rooting plants or trees (root structures extending below 1 m depth) in areas of soil or groundwater contamination [at sites where wildlands (natural or reverted), agricultural or low-density residential land uses apply]"*. It further states *"This protocol must also not be used at contaminated sites where exposure pathways are present that are not specifically identified in Section 4.3."* Answers to EPQ items HS-3 and TS-3 (Is the ground surface above contaminated soils uncovered?) indicated 'No', given the contaminated soil is covered by concrete.

Clarification was sought from ENV on whether SLRA could be used in this site circumstance given tree roots were exposed to contaminated soil in the upper 1 m.

ENV indicated DRA was required mainly because of Point 1 below:

1. The intent of TS-3 is to determine if ecological receptors may be exposed to contamination in the top metre, which is the case given that there's a tree in the area of contamination. The "No" answer to TS-3 means Detailed Risk Assessment (DRA) is required to assess the current and potential future health of the tree.
2. The precluding condition related to the presence of "deep-rooting plants or trees" indicates that if the tree's roots do or may extend below the top metre (which this precluding condition is assuming to be "clean") then DRA is required to evaluate contamination below 1 metre.

ENV also indicated some proponents choose to remove trees instead of applying risk-based standards, which may not be an option depending on where the site is located and whether the local municipality has bylaws protecting healthy trees (e.g., [City of Vancouver](#)). If they aren't allowed to remove the tree, then DRA is the only option to apply CSR risk-based standards when there's contamination in the top metre associated with a tree.

## **Protocol 6 (P6) Preapprovals**

ENV recently updated its P6 Preapprovals webpage earlier this month. Scenarios that no longer require P6 Preapprovals include Wide Area Fill sites and sites with Flow Through Contamination, for example. Members should review the ENV updates to the webpage ([Preapprovals - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)) to confirm whether a P6 Preapproval is still required for submissions going forward. Reporting guidance and expectations are also provided for various scenarios. [Find a webinar on reducing P6 Preapprovals here.](#)

Please note that because Protocol 6 would have also required a revision, which was not included with the Preapprovals update, AIP recommendations by APs still require remediation to be completed within a 5-year period, as per Table 1 of Protocol 6, Version 12.0, dated March 20, 2023.

A summary of previous PAC Updates is available [here](#).

## **Screening Updates**

### **Detailed Screening**

Since our last update, the quality of submissions continues to be high and generally speaking, only minor issues are identified during Detailed Screenings. Here are a few tips beyond the standard ones (e.g., spelling of substances!) that will help to avoid issues being identified during Detailed Screenings:

- The following requirements for Site Risk Classification Records should be considered when preparing applications:
  - In cases where a SRCR has been submitted to ENV within the last 5 years, or if the application is for a Determination, an SRCR is not required.
  - If you tick the box on the CSSAF indicating that an SRCR was submitted within the last 5 years, please check the dates to ensure that this is the case.
  - If the SOSC and CSSAF indicate that the parcel is not a high-risk site, check that this is consistent with the SRCR (i.e., SRCR also indicates non-high risk).
  - If concentrations greater than the Protocol 11 Upper Cap Concentrations are identified in the SRCR, UCC cross-sections or plume figures must be included with the SRCR.
- As noted in the PAC update, there have been changes to the scenarios for which Protocol 6 Preapprovals are required. The following are scenarios where preapproval is no longer required:
  - You are remediating a flow-through contaminated site;
  - There is area wide contamination;
  - You want to get certification for an affected parcel before the source site is fully remediated;
  - You are only remediating part of an operating facility and need a certification document or
  - site release for that area; and,
  - Contaminants appear in environmental media because of beneficial uses.

For the above scenarios, P6 applications for certification documents must include a summary of the scenario in **Section 4.8 of the Summary of Site Condition**. Where there is information presented in the submission documents that are reviewed as part of a Detailed Screening that indicate one of these scenarios is likely, screeners will be checking to confirm that the scenario is sufficiently summarized, with supporting details to demonstrate that the conditions assessed are aligned with one of these scenarios. Further details on each scenario are provided on [ENV's](#)

[preapproval webpage](#).

### **Review Services Committee Updates**

The RSC continues to complete reviews of reports submitted in support of Director's requirements identified in certification documents. For further details regarding the type of work the RSC completes please see our [webpage](#).

For those completing submissions we encourage you to use the supporting information found at the link above including utilizing our required transmittal letter and considering our recommended checklist.

Generally, the RSC does not review reports submitted regarding high-risk sites but in some circumstances the applicant has received permission or direction from ENV to submit through CSAP rather than directly to the ENV. In those instances we ask that you note on the CSAP transmittal letter that ENV permission was obtained to submit directly to CSAP to avoid delays.

We also note the CSAP fee schedule footnotes were recently clarified regarding submissions that reference more than one compliance document. The CSAP review fee of \$2000 is applicable to each certification document being reviewed by the RSC. For example, if one Monitoring Report is submitted to cover two AiPs, the fee would \$2000 for each of the two AiPs.

### **Technical Review Committee Updates**

Over the past three months the TRC has been working on developing the scope and writing the request for proposals (RFPs) for the Special Projects that CSAP will be funding for 2024/25. The Special Projects selected this year were generated from a running list of projects and topics suggested by members. This year the TRC will be undertaking three (rather than two) special projects which we hope will be of interest to all CSAP members. The CSAP Board recently approved the budget for all three projects and the RFPs will be circulated to members in late April/early May. Further details on these projects are below.

- **Background Soil Concentrations** – Feedback from the CSAP membership has indicated that the current list of regional soil background concentrations may not accurately reflect the range of parameter concentrations commonly observed during investigation. The purpose of this project is to identify whether there is sufficient information available to support changes/additions to the Protocol 4 background soil concentrations.
- **Background Groundwater Concentrations** – CSAP practitioners have identified that natural background levels of metals in groundwater are still an issue at sites in other parts of the province including the Northeast BC Region and the Prince George Region. When conducting investigation of these sites, elevated concentrations of metals unrelated to site activities are often encountered and result in additional costs and time delays. At the time of development of Table 1 of Protocol 9, insufficient data was present in these two regions and in other areas of the province to develop a suitable database for evaluation. The purpose of this project would be to expand the dataset such that

background concentrations for groundwater could potentially be developed for other regions of the province.

- **Review of Groundwater Plume Stability Assessment Methods** – The purpose of this project is to provide practitioners with some options for stability assessment methods that can be used for assessing the stability of groundwater contaminant plumes to confirm that contaminated sites in BC are being assessed using the best available technology.

The TRC is also working on wrapping up the last of its 2023/24 projects:

- **Shallow Vapour Attenuation Factors** – The purpose of this project was to provide practitioners with science-based approaches for assessment of vapours in indoor air where groundwater is near to or in contact with the building foundation. The project also included a desktop evaluation of attenuation factors and information from other jurisdictions as it relates to the new soil relocation legislation and the triggers for soil vapour assessment.

Other TRC activities underway include evaluation of scholarship applications received at the end of March. CSAP awards up to three scholarships annually to graduates studying in the area of contaminated site investigation and remediation. This year we received nine applications and the TRC is currently reviewing the applications. Scholarships will be awarded in May and announced at our Spring AGM.

If you have any suggestions for a topic that you would like the TRC to tackle, please send your ideas to [TRC@csapsociety.bc.ca](mailto:TRC@csapsociety.bc.ca).

### **Membership Committee Updates**

The Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who submitted a record of their PD hours by the December 31 deadline. The Committee reviewed the renewal requirements for 29 members who renewed their membership at the end of 2023.

The 2024 exam development process is underway. Thank you to all the Experience Reviewers and Exam Developers that have contributed their time and expertise to aid the Exam Sub-Committee in preparing for this year's exam process.

Please note the following deadlines and dates:

- Deadline for Applications for New Members: April 26, 2024
- Deadline to Application for Sitting of the Regulatory Exam for Existing Members (who have not fulfilled submission requirement): August 31, 2024
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- 2024 Exam Dates
- Numerical Technical Assessment: September 10, 2024
- Risk Assessment Technical Assessment: September 11, 2024
- Regulatory Exam: November 14, 2024

**Professional Development Sub-Committee Updates**

**AGM & PD Workshop coming up June 4**

Our [AGM & PD Workshop](#) for CSAP members is being held **June 4** at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. We’re putting the final touches on the agenda but can confirm the following sessions:

- ACEC-BC 2024 Consulting Engineer Fee Guideline
- ENV sessions: Director’s Update, Policy Update, and Site Release Process
- TRC Special Project: Shallow Vapour Attenuation Factor
- Validity of Older ENV Approvals Panel Discussion

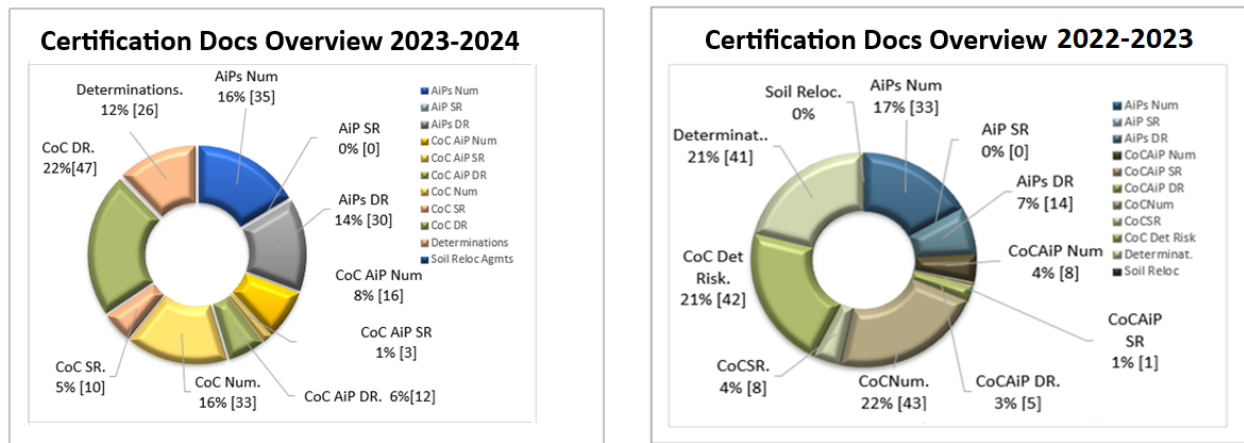
Members, register at the link above and watch your email for more details in the coming weeks.

**Lunch and Learn**

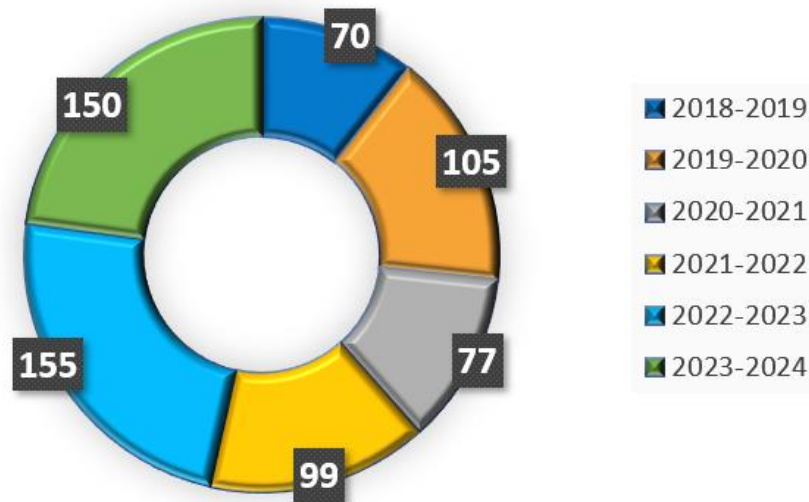
We’ve held two sessions for far this year, a public session on [Using Statistics to Assess Soil](#) in February and a Members’ Open Forum in April. Your participation is valuable and we look forward to more fruitful discussion at future sessions.

The next session, open to the public, takes place **May 23 at 11 a.m.** and will be a panel session on tetraethyl lead. Watch your email and the [Lunch and Learn webpage](#) for the Zoom link.

**Submission Statistics update (as of March 31, 2024)**



### Submissions Received over Fiscal Years



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### What's new at CSAP

- Register now for the [AGM & PD Workshop](#), June 4 at the Vancouver Convention Centre West.
- A reminder that all P6 Submissions and Report Review applications are to be sent to [submissions@csapsociety.bc.ca](mailto:submissions@csapsociety.bc.ca) including all follow-up communications and correspondence.

### In the news

- [Pb and As bioaccessibility testing in BC \(Dodd et al 2024\)](#)
- [Sidestepping Contracts: The Expansion of Environmental Liability Where The Contractor Is Not Paid](#)
- [LETTER to Minister of Labour re implementation of Labour Statutes Amendment Act](#)
- [Submission on Clean Electricity Regulations Update](#)
- [Joint Submission re Additional Administrative Burden with Various Government Information Gathering Initiatives](#)
- [Joint Submission to Metro Vancouver re Smart Waste Program and draft Tipping Fee Bylaw updates](#)
- [Fiscal discipline missing from latest B.C. budget](#)
- [Federal budget must face up to a lost decade for Canadian prosperity](#)

If you have a link of interest, please forward it to [csapcommunications@csapsociety.bc.ca](mailto:csapcommunications@csapsociety.bc.ca).

## **Professional development opportunities**

- [2024 Cross Country Brownfield Regulatory Check-in Webinar](#), May 2, 2024, virtual
- [Using AI in Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice](#) – May 7, 2024, virtual
- [ITRC: Pump & Treat Optimization Training](#) – May 7, 2024, virtual
- [Optimizing Injection Strategies and In situ Remediation Performance Training](#) – May 16, 2024, virtual
- [FRTR Spring 2024 General Meeting: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Optimize Site Remediation](#) – May 21, 2024, virtual
- [ITRC Contaminants of Emerging Concern \(CEC\) Identification Framework Training](#) – May 21, 2024, virtual
- [BCEIA BEST conference](#) – May 8 to 10, 2024, Whistler
- [Delineation, Remediation and Risk Management of Petroleum Hydrocarbon Impacts on Soil and Groundwater](#) – June 18 & 19, 2024, virtual
- [Contaminant Vapor Migration and Intrusion](#) – August 15 & 16, 2024, virtual
- [Risk Assessment of Contaminated Sites](#) – September 25 & 26, 2024, virtual
- [SABCS Workshop & Conference](#) – September 25 & 26, 2024, Vancouver (hybrid)
- [Climate Adaptation Fundamentals Micro-credential](#) – Royal Roads, ongoing, virtual
- [Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information \(CLU-IN\)](#) – Sponsored by the US EPA. Hosts free weekly webinars focusing on contaminated sites-related subjects
- [EPIC Training](#) – environmental engineering training courses
- [GeoEnviroPro](#) – various webinars, ongoing
- [Northwest Environmental Training Center](#) – Remediation and toxicology courses among other environmental practitioner courses
- [Regenesi.com](#) – various webinars, ongoing