



BC MoE Upstream Oil and Gas Assessment Technical Guidance

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

- **To collaborate with government and industry stakeholders to develop a draft guidance document for characterizing contamination at upstream oil and gas sites in British Columbia.**
- **First Nations (Treaty 8) will also be involved in the process through separate collaborative meetings.**
- **This draft guidance document will be used as advice to MoE in developing and adopting guidance focused on the characterization of contaminated sites in the upstream oil and gas sector.**



FOCUS OF THE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

- **The purpose of the project is not to revisit the underlying regulations relating to contaminated sites in BC**
- **Focus is to consolidate and simplify guidance from a number of existing guidance documents developed for industrial/commercial sites and to adapt the existing guidance to the unique conditions that exist at upstream oil and gas sites.**



BACKGROUND

Basically there are two processes for completing Upstream Oil and Gas environmental works:

- ◆ **The MoE process**
- ◆ **The OGC process**

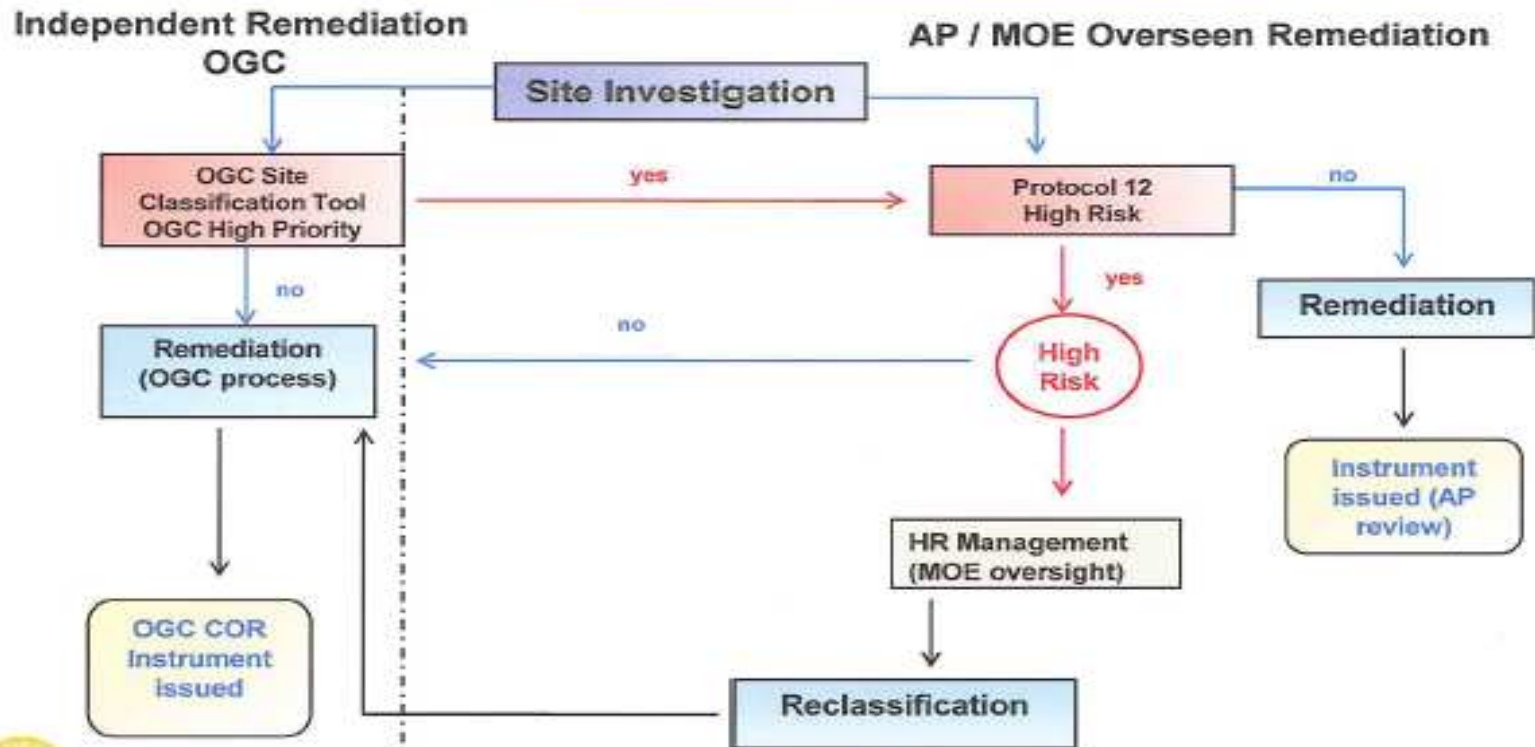
There are challenges with both processes that make it difficult for industry to understand how to assess their sites and there is uncertainty around the applicability of work that has been completed or is being planned. The intent of the document is to allow for consistent minimum standards for characterization of sites between the MoE and OGC.



BACKGROUND

Comparing the OGC and MOE Process

Protocol 12
May 21, 2009



Principles of Technical Guidance Document

- ◆ **To provide rationale as to the modification of existing guidance with an emphasis on site investigation to achieve provincial remediation objectives and standards**
- ◆ **To help streamline efforts for sites which have baseline conditions that indicate a high likelihood of low levels of risk**
- ◆ **Methodologies that reflect activities, APEC, PCOC, and geologic setting found at “typical” upstream well sites in northeast BC**



SITE SETTINGS

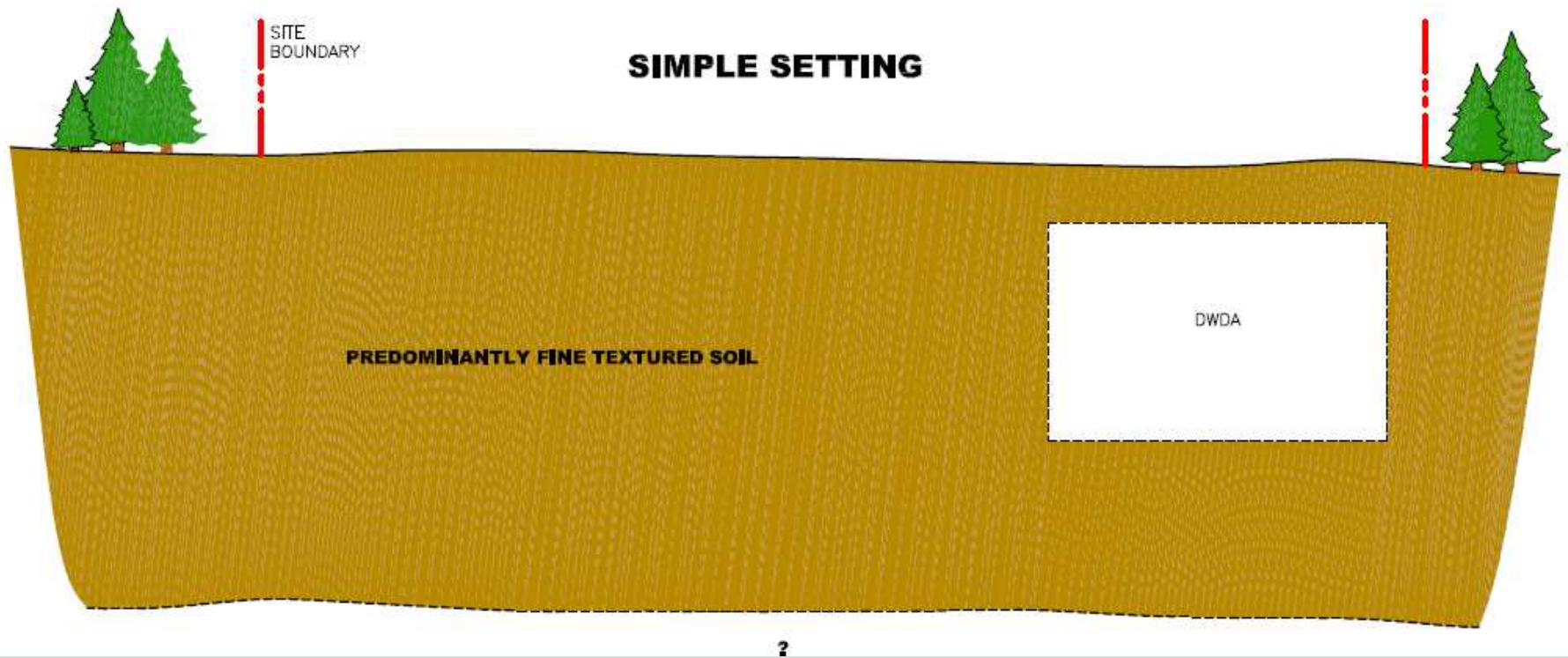
Three simplified site models that may be encountered in northeast BC:

- ◆ **Simple Sites (e.g., fine textured soils, no nearby receptors, etc.)**
- ◆ **Muskeg Sites (e.g., organic soil overlying fine textured soils, perched water, etc.)**
- ◆ **Complex Sites / Others (e.g., coarse to medium grained soils, potable water supply, etc.)**

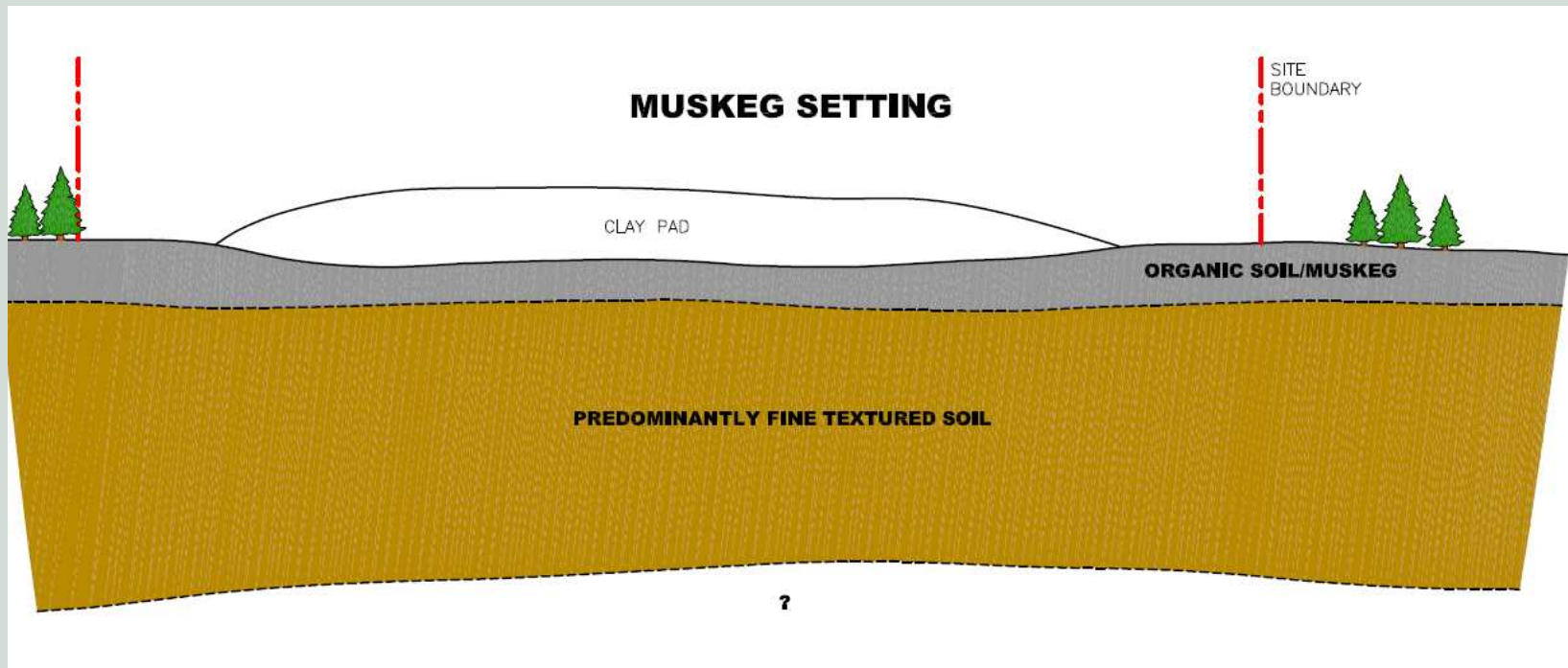


SIMPLE SETTINGS

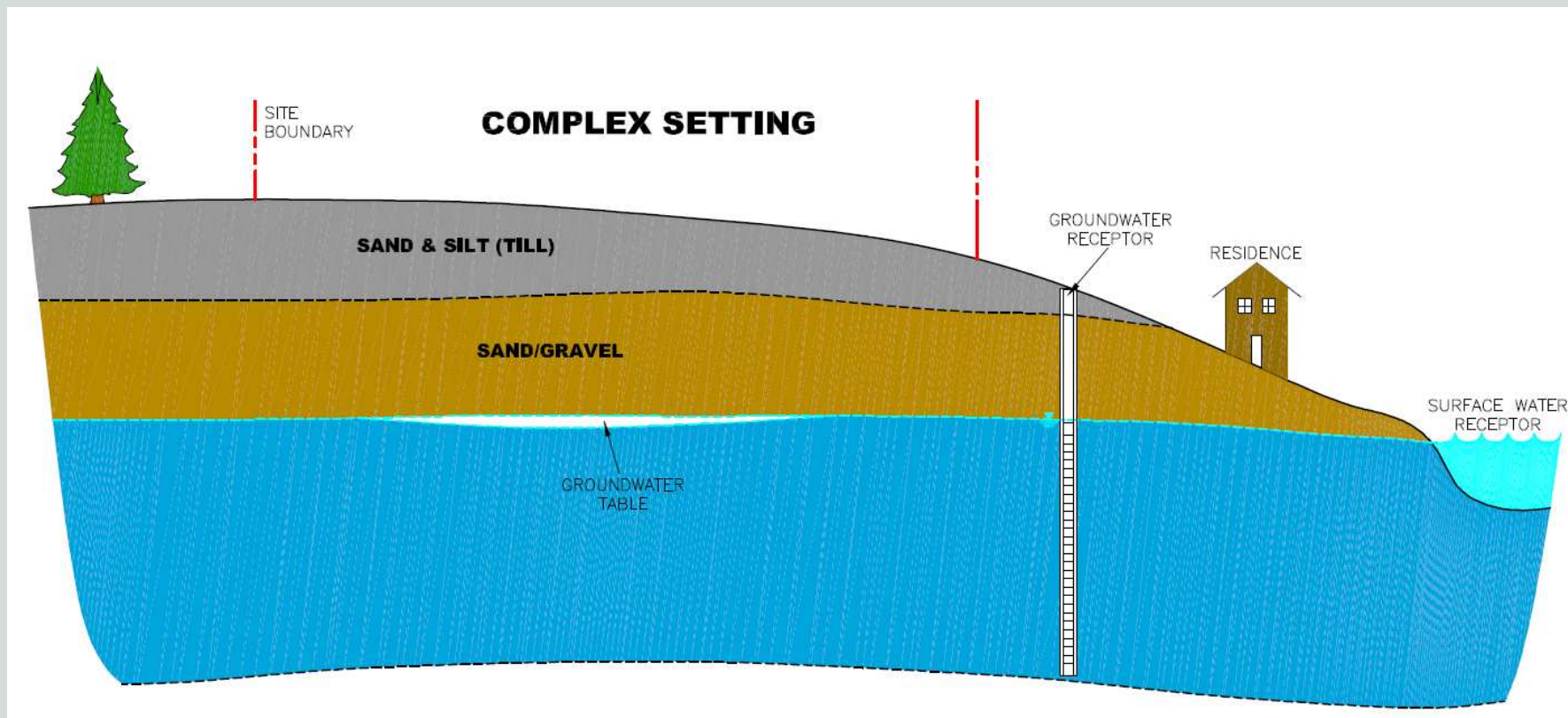
SIMPLE SETTING



MUSKEG SETTINGS



COMPLEX SITES / OTHERS



REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

What type of activities should be included in this Technical Guidance document ?

- ◆ **well sites, drilling waste disposal areas, spills/leaks, flare pits, gas plants, compressor stations etc.?**

What should be excluded or considered a priority for assessment and on what basis?



Should this Technical Guidance document apply to all geographic areas in BC? If exceptions are suggested, what would be the basis?



**Should there be different guidance for sites based on different site conditions.
If so what would this entail.**



What are your specific concerns with the existing guidance used in the characterization of contamination upstream oil and gas sites?



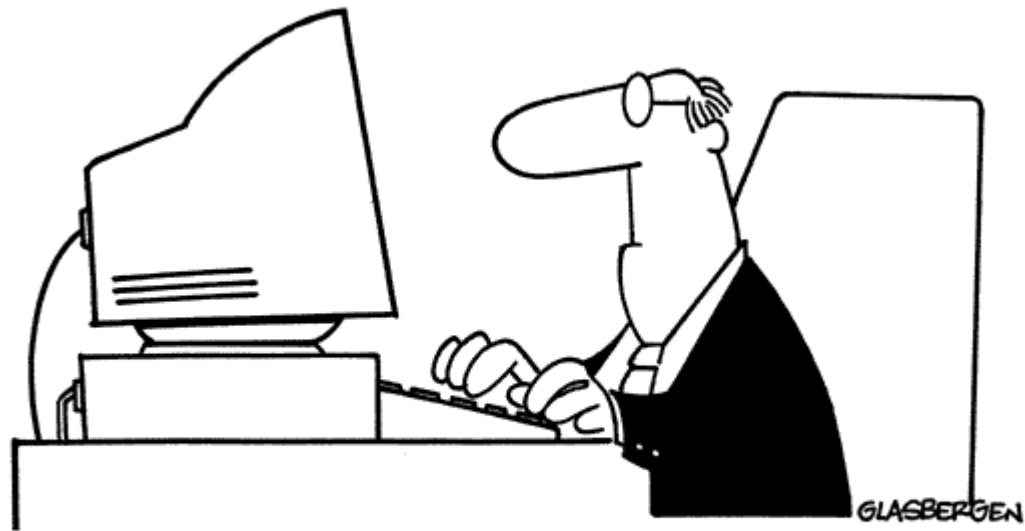
Are there any specific comments on the relevance of the guidance documents used in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the characterization of contamination of upstream oil and gas sites that would be useful to adopt in BC? List or describe the regulations where applicable.



What other issues are of concern for you with the current approach in the characterization of contamination at Upstream Oil and Gas sites?



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“MEMO: It has come to my attention that every time we solve one problem, we create two more. From now on, all problem solving is forbidden.”

