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**Interplay of
Science and Policy**

**Interplay of Private
Sector Scientists and
Public Sector Scientists**



Show of Hands

Who is from a regulatory agency?

Who is from the private sector?

Who from the private sector would like greater input to regulatory policy making?

Who is from academia?



Current Regulatory Efforts to Engage Private Sector Expertise

BC Science Advisory Board on Contaminated Sites

Atlantic PIRI (Partners in RBCA Implementation) + Technical working groups

BioAvailability Research Canada (BARC)

CCME – has provision for submission of unsolicited soil quality guidelines (Eg: DIPA, Sulfolane)

Most regulatory agencies have provision for peer review or a comment period following release of guidelines, policies, guidance, etc.



Perspectives: Regulator versus Private Sector

Regulator

All sites within jurisdiction

Good science 'BUT'

Precautionary Principle

Generic tools applicable to multiple sites

Private Sector

Specific sites

Good science 'BUT'

As realistic as possible

Specific tools tailored to one site



Impediments to interaction

Us versus Them mentality

Assuming the '*other side*' is biased

Thinking that '*you know better*'

Interpreting guidance documents as a set of all-or-nothing rules

Attempting to influence policy for the sake of specific interests



How to have greater interaction with regulators

1. Get to know them and get them to know you
2. Get involved when you can – show a commitment to the ‘greater good’
3. Don’t expect to get paid
4. Don’t be afraid to submit unsolicited ideas, issues, proposals, guidelines, etc. (there is lots of ‘low hanging fruit’)
5. Make a habit of responding with comments on new guidelines, guidance, etc issued by regulators
6. When submitting input, don’t just criticize, provide a solution that is solidly based in science (professional opinion is seldom enough)
7. Avoid the appearance of skewed perspective (i.e., don’t enter into the dialogue representing a client’s interests)
8. Don’t be surprised (and don’t get annoyed) when regulators ignore your ideas and input
9. Publish – regulators rely on science, so make some of it your science.



Some issues on my personal list

Human health TRV for lead (Pb)

Dilution factor for groundwater entering surface water

Human health-based sediment quality guidelines

Unique exposure factors

TRVs for reptiles and amphibians

Risk assessment methods for dissimilar mixtures



The Other Coast

