Provincial Update on Auditor General Recommendations
Department of Environment
AS AT MAY 31, 2012

Since 2009, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has made 17 recommendations to the Department of Environment, in efforts to improve government for the people of Nova Scotia. The Department has made every effort to address these recommendations. Of the 17 recommendations made, 7 have already been completed, and 10 are in progress.

Recommendations assigned to Department of Environment:

Department of Environment	Complete	Work In Progress	Action no Longer Required	Do not Intend to Implement	Total Recommendations
June 2010					
Chapter 3: Environment: Management of Contaminated Sites	7	10			17
Total	**7**	**10**	**-**	**-**	**17**
Percentage	41%	59%	0%	0%	100%

Recommendations in Detail:

Month & Year	Chapter	Recommendation	Status	Brief summary of actions taken
June 2010	3	3.1	Complete	Contaminated Sites Regulations have been approved and will be effective July 2013. The regulations require department notification in the event contamination is identified. Notification is the first step in the remediation process.
June 2010	3	3.2	Work in Progress	The Contaminated Sites Regulations and support documentation will be designed to assist in the identification of sites with unacceptable risks. The Department is developing a system for public reporting based on risk. The reporting system will be completed by July 2013.

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Recommendations in Detail:

Month & Year	Chapter	Recommendation	Status	Brief summary of actions taken
June 2010	3	3.3	Complete	Time frames have been developed as guidance for inspection staff to follow up on outstanding reports to ensure that movement towards site closure is progressing. Existing Activity Tracking System enables staff to schedule reminders that a follow up report is anticipated.
June 2010	3	3.4	Work in Progress	Existing Activity Tracking System can track reports and set time frames for review. Reports can be generated for management to ensure time frames are being met. Time frames will be established by July 2013 and the expectations communicated to management and staff.
June 2010	3	3.5	Work in Progress	The Department intends to establish a prioritization process to identify high risk contaminated sites during the supporting documentation development. The prioritization process will be completed by July 2013.
June 2010	3	3.6	Work in Progress	Supporting documentation is expected to include a process for determining departmental response once notifications are made and may include site visits to verify information reported by site professionals. The supporting documentation will be completed by July 2013.
June 2010	3	3.7	Work in Progress	Supporting documentation will include a process for site professionals to demonstrate professional qualifications. Supporting documentation will be completed by July 2013.

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Recommendations in Detail:

Month & Year	Chapter	Recommendation	Status	Brief summary of actions taken
June 2010	3	3.8	Work in Progress	Standardized processes and forms are being developed to support the Contaminated Sites Regulations. The processes and forms will be completed by July 2013.
June 2010	3	3.9	Complete	Divisional Operating Procedures on Compliance Promotion and Enforcement were developed. In addition, the Activities Tracking System sends email alerts to the Compliance and Inspection Coordinator for key stages in enforcement activities.
June 2010	3	3.10	Complete	An approved Divisional Operating Procedure exists on File Management. The Quality Assurance Review component includes review for complaint and notification files.
June 2010	3	3.11	Complete	An approved Divisional Operating Procedure exists on File Management. The Quality Assurance Review component includes time standards for the inspection of a complaint or notification by inspector and for district manager review of closed files.
June 2010	3	3.12	Work in Progress	The Department developed and approved Divisional Operating Procedures for the Activity Tracking System (ATS) and made enhancements to ATS.
June 2010	3	3.13	Work In Progress	After implementation of the new contaminated sites regulations, and a sufficient number of contaminated sites files have been managed under the new program (July 2014), the Quality Assurance/Quality Control program will be used to assess the contaminated sites program files.

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Recommendations in Detail:

Month & Year	Chapter	Recommendation	Status	Brief summary of actions taken
June 2010	3	3.14	Complete	Developed and implemented the Development and Accountability Model and associated training programs.
June 2010	3	3.15	Complete	Developed and implemented the Development and Accountability Model and associated training programs.
June 2010	3	3.16	Work in Progress	Supporting documentation is being developed which will include a performance measurement and evaluation component. This will inform the objectives of the program and the responsibilities. The supporting documentation will be completed by July 2013.
June 2010	3	3.17	Work in Progress	A contaminated sites inventory system (CSIS) will be developed as an integral component of the contaminated sites management system. The inventory system will be completed by July 2013.

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