

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC)

Cheakamus River - CN Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) Spill

Background:

The Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC) is a technical working committee comprised of regulatory agencies, local governments, Squamish Nation and CN, with jurisdiction or directly affected by the CN sodium hydroxide spill into the Cheakamus River on August 5th, 2005.

Mandate:

The Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee is to understand the ecosystem level impacts and develop restoration and monitoring strategies for species affected to accelerate the return of the Cheakamus ecosystem to a pre-spill state as fast as reasonably possible.

Membership:

The committee is comprised of a representative of the following;

- Canadian National Railway Company (CN)
- District of Squamish (DoS)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- BC Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Squamish Nation

The complexities of an ecosystem approach, and involvement of other agencies/organizations in the watershed, may require the participation of qualified experts and other representatives, as required by the committee. Qualified professionals will be used to provide information to the committee, and for specific tasks as required.

A communications organization will receive information (abbreviated meeting notes, etc.) directly from the CERTC for general dissemination, and relay feedback to the committee regarding issues identified by interested parties. The communications organization will solicit input from the general public and interested stakeholder groups (angling groups, conservation groups, and the Stakeholder Team. etc.) regarding the findings of the restoration strategies/recommendations identified by the committee.

CERTC

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Deliverables:

Deliverables will be provided to the Steering Committee and include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i) Additional ecosystem impact assessment to supplement the MoE emergency fish impact assessment.
- ii) A plan containing recovery strategies, options and recommendations for all adversely impacted components of the ecosystem.
- iii) A communications plan to provide information to, and reception of, comments from local public and interested stakeholder groups.

Committee Support:

CN will provide administrative support to the CERTC, including preparation, editing and collation of reports, scheduling meetings, meeting notes, preparation of notes to the communications organization, and other support as agreed upon by the committee and CN.

Dispute Resolution:

The CERTC is to work toward consensus in completion of deliverables. In the event consensus is not achieved on a specific issue, the issue will be referred to the Steering Committee for resolution.