

ESANS was pleased to host Nova Scotia Environment's (NSE) senior contaminated sites management specialist Paul Currie on July 10 as part of our Lunch and Learn series. Joining Mr. Currie for the presentation, held at Casino Nova Scotia, was Darren Parker, an environmental planner with Dillon Consulting Limited. Mr. Currie's topic was once again the Contaminated Sites Regulations, this time discussing the rationale for the new Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) values. The new regulations have a number of goals: to change the role of NSE, provide new provincial EQS's, create a technical advisory group, and update the notification protocol.

The new environmental quality standards (EQS) are specific to the province of Nova Scotia, which is very important given the unique provincial background concentrations of a number of key substances such as cobalt, iron and vanadium. NSE has recently released a rationale document, which provides context for the new EQS values, as well as the selection criteria. This document can be found on the NSE website under business – contaminated sites protocols – guidance: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/guidance.asp>

Generally, the new EQS values were taken from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), Partnership in RBCA Implementation (PIRI), or other distinct provincial standards, with appropriate modifications made to reflect Nova Scotian background concentrations.

Nova Scotia Environment will also allow site specialists to determine background concentrations at their sites themselves. This is a big step, as it allows site specialists to conduct extra tests to determine whether concentrations found on-site are due to point sources or are merely background concentrations. By doing so, site specialists can contribute to the provincial knowledge-base of background substance concentrations in Nova Scotia. This can help guide further accuracy improvements to our provincial EQS values.

All new EQS values can be found on the NSE website at the following link: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/protocols.asp>

If you have any questions regarding the new regulations or EQS values, Mr. Currie and his staff have created a inquiry-specific email account to support the new regulations: [csp\\_engagement@gov.ns.ca](mailto:csp_engagement@gov.ns.ca)