Report on the Status of the Recommendations in the *Study on Inuvialuit Community Spill Response Training in the Beaufort Region: Current Capacity, Projected Need, Realistic Roles and Gap Identification*

Background and Current Circumstance

The February 2013 BREA *Study on Inuvialuit Community Spill Response Training in the Beaufort Region* ("Training Needs Study") produced a training curriculum outline and made 14 recommendations regarding facilitation of the training. "The recommendations ranged from training needs and the need for funding, to Inuvialuit advisory roles, youth education, knowledge sharing, and the establishment of a spill response entity such as a co-op or Inuvialuit-owned company or joint venture."[1]

In the two years since the BREA Training Needs Study was produced, Industry has not significantly advanced their proposals to drill in the Canadian Beaufort Sea. The media reported on December 17, 2014 that "Chevron [Canada Limited] said … a plan to drill for oil in the Beaufort Sea in Canada's Arctic is on hold indefinitely because of what it called "economic uncertainty in industry" as oil prices fall." [2]

On December 11, 2014, Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited, as the operator of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture, prepared and distributed a "Preliminary Information Package describing the ice management field trials proposed to take place in the Beaufort Sea in 2015."[3] The media also reported on December 17, 2014 that Imperial Oil and its partners "…have not yet made an investment decision and are in the process of applying for regulatory approval from Canada's National Energy Board. Pending approval, the earliest the companies would be able to start drilling would be the summer of 2020."[4]

The Study proposed that 10 of the 14 recommendations be considered within the first year or two. The BREA Working Group felt that addressing a number of the recommendations at this time might raise unrealistic expectations in the communities. With the prospect for earliest drilling in five to six years' time (2020–2021), it could be premature to undertake a number of the recommendations. Should the prospect of drilling become more certain, it is anticipated that agencies and community organizations would be more prepared to consider the recommendations.

---

[1] Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment website, http://www.beaufortrea.ca/. *BREA Study on Inuvialuit Community Spill Response Training in the Beaufort Region: Current Capacity, Projected Need, Realistic Roles and Gap Identification,* Section 4: Workshop Recommendations.

[2] Reuters, December 17, 2014. "Chevron cancels Canadian Arctic drilling as oil prices slide".

[3] Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited, December 2014. "2015 ice management field trials Preliminary Information Package".

[4] Reuters, December 17, 2014. "Imperial Oil exploration plans in Arctic have not changed-spokesman".

Given the uncertainty noted above, action has not begun on a number of recommendations. As well, the BREA Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Working Group will no longer be active after March 31, 2015. The Working Group strongly recommends that, if offshore drilling becomes more certain, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) follow up on all the recommendations of the Training Needs Study to determine which ones can be actioned. In the interim, it is also recommended that AANDC periodically review the recommendations and advise the Inuvialuit communities of the status on actions, if any.

Table 1: BREA Training Needs Study Recommendations.

#	Recommendation	Potential Lead	Study Comment	Status
Immediate (1-2 years)				
1	Develop an action plan on who is responsible for responding to a spill depending where and when the spill occurs.	AANDC with EC and NEB		In progress
2	Develop a list of trained individuals in each community and type and timing of that training.	Local Hamlet offices or HTCs		To be considered or initiated
3	Update sensitivity maps—use CCPs, local and traditional knowledge	EC and AANDC	This activity has already been initiated by EC	Completed
4	Provide information and training to students in schools on oil spills and oil and gas industry in general	Active oil and gas operators and regulators	Collaboration with schools, Beaufort Delta School Board and Aurora college	To be considered or initiated
5	Develop a means for Inuvialuit to be part of decision making process on how to respond to a spill and follow-up monitoring required	IRC and IGC	Collaboration with active oil and gas operators	In progress
6	Develop an Inuvialuit or advisory board to advise industry and interface with communities during spill response efforts?	IRC and IGC	Initiated immediately but not completed until later	To be considered or initiated
7	Establish Inuvialuit owned or joint venture company or co-op to conduct spill response training and activities	IRC and IDC	Initiated immediately but not completed until later	To be considered or initiated
8	Share knowledge with communities regarding industry and oil spills, e.g., what factors does industry consider when developing a spill response plan and what is contained in the plan, all aspects of oil spills including fate and effects and response	Active oil and gas operators		In progress

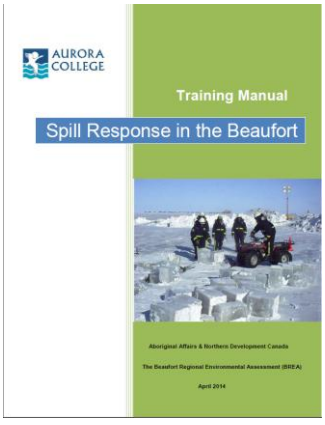
#	Recommendation	Potential Lead	Study Comment	Status
Immediate (1-2 years)				
	methods			
9	Put together a collection of existing traditional knowledge and information on coastal and offshore areas of the ISR	IRC and Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre		In progress
10	Hold additional workshops on different facets of oil spills and responses	AANDC, EC and DFO	Types of workshops to be determined at a later date	To be considered or initiated

#	Recommendation	Potential Lead	Study Comment	Status
Later, after approval of one or more drilling applications (5-8 years)				
11	Have one or more trained communications people in communities	IRC and IGC	Collaboration with active oil and gas operators	To be considered or initiated
12	Prepare to have Inuvialuit experience and expertise ready—capacity building	Spill response company or coop		To be considered or initiated
13	Identify potential funding sources for training	Spill response company or coop		To be considered or initiated
14	Use local facilities for training whenever possible	Spill response company or coop	Aurora College	To be considered or initiated

Community Oil Spill Training Curriculum

Development of a Community Oil Spill Training Curriculum

Status: Completed with first delivery expected in 2015.



The BREA Training Needs Study provided a suggested curriculum and a list of possible resources.

Laurence B. Solsberg (Conterspil Research Inc.), with assistance from Dr. Edward H. Owens (Owens Coastal Consultants), developed the curriculum, complete with a training manual, lesson plans, classroom materials and references to previously published field guides; including two co-authored by Owens and Solsberg[5].

[5] Field Guides:
Owens, E.H., Solsberg, L.B., West, M.R. and McGrath, M., 1998. *Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters*. on behalf of the Arctic Council, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group. 362p.
Owens, E.H., Solsberg, L.B., West, M.R. and McGrath, M., 1998. *First Responders' Guide for Arctic Oil Spills*. 75p.

We understand that Aurora College has been approached to consider certifying the training curriculum, though no final decision has been made.

Table 2: Training curriculum outline.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	1. Course Introduction, Regulations Setting, Sources of Spills.	5. Health & Safety.	9. Removal in Ice.	13. Shoreline Types.	16. Review of Equipment Depot (Field Session).
	2. Causes of Spills, Prevention, Tiered Response, ICS, Response Plans, Reporting.	6. Containment in Open Water	10. Dispersants & In situ Burning.	14. Shoreline Treatment.	
PM	3. Fate, Behaviour & Impacts of Spills in Open Water.	7. Containment in Ice.	11. Storage, Transfer & Disposal.	15. Shoreline Treatment (Field Session).	17. Course Summary & Test.
	4. Sill Fate & Behaviour in Ice.	8. Removal in Open Water	12. Transportation & Logistics.		

BREA Training Needs Study Recommendations 1 to 10 and Status

1. **Develop an action plan on who is responsible for responding to a spill depending where and when the spill occurs.**

   Status: In progress
   The National Energy Board (NEB), the lead Federal Agency for Beaufort Sea offshore drilling incidents, is identified as a potential lead for this recommendation. The NEB has undertaken an initiative, apart from the BREA recommendation, to identify the mandates and spill response roles of stakeholder federal and territorial agencies and community organizations. The NEB proposes to incorporate these agencies' and organizations' commitments into a Beaufort Sea regional annex of its emergency response procedures and to exercise the resultant contingency plan before 2020.

2. **Develop a list of trained individuals in each community, including the type and timing of that training.**

   Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.
   At this time, no specific training qualifications have been identified that Hamlets or Hunters and Trappers Committees could use to appropriately identifying and list individuals as "trained". A list of "trained individuals" at present would likely change by 2020.

Owens, E.H. and Sergy, G.A., 2004. *The Arctic SCAT [Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique] Manual: A Field Guide to the Documentation of Oiled Shorelines in Arctic Regions.* on behalf of the Arctic Council, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group. 172p.
Owens, E.H. and Sergy, G.A., 2010. *A Field Guide to Oil Spill Response on Marine Shorelines*. 223p.
Sergy, G.A. and Owens, E.H., 2007. Guidelines for Selecting Shoreline Treatment Endpoints for Oil Spill Response. 28p.

3. **Update sensitivity maps—use CCPs, local and traditional knowledge.**

   Status: Completed, waiting to be published.
   Environment Canada, identified as a potential lead for this recommendation, had already initiated the update before the BREA Training Needs Study recommendation was made. The *Beaufort Regional Sensitivity Atlas*[6] incorporates Inuvialuit traditional knowledge, along with scientific data to present an overview of resources that may be vulnerable to oil spills.

4. **Provide information and training to students in schools on oil spills and oil and gas industry in general.**

   Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.
   Industry is identified as a potential lead for this recommendation. A number of the modules of the Training Curriculum (Table 2) could easily be adopted and provided to school students by educators or Industry. If the Industry information cannot be fit within class time, an after-hours venue should be considered and other community members should be invited.

5. **Develop a means for Inuvialuit to be part of decision making process on how to respond to a spill and follow-up monitoring required.**

   Status: In progress.
   The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) are suggested as potential leads for this recommendation. As above for Recommendation 1, the NEB has undertaken an initiative, apart from the BREA recommendation, to identify the mandates and spill response roles of community organizations such as the IRC and IGC. Where appropriate and feasible, community representatives could have a decision role within the regulators' resultant contingency plan.

6. **Develop an Inuvialuit or advisory board to advise industry and interface with communities during spill response efforts.**

   Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.
   The IRC and IGC, identified as potential leads, should consider this recommendation if drilling becomes more certain.

7. **Establish Inuvialuit owned or joint venture company or co-op to conduct spill response training and activities.**

   Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.
   The IRC and Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC), identified as potential leads, should consider this recommendation if drilling becomes more certain.

8. **Share knowledge with communities regarding industry and oil spills, e.g., what factors does industry consider when developing a spill response plan and what is contained in the plan, all aspects of oil spills including fate and effects and response methods.**

[6] Environment Canada, 2014. *Beaufort Regional Sensitivity Atlas*. 63pp.

Status: In progress.
Industry is identified as a potential lead for this recommendation. It is expected that Industry will continue its dialogue with communities when developing spill contingency plans for submission to the assessors and regulators.

9. **Put together a collection of existing traditional knowledge and information on coastal and offshore areas of the ISR**.

Status: Partly in progress.
Although the IRC and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resources Centre are identified as potential leads for this recommendation, the collection of existing local and traditional knowledge was begun and incorporated in the *Beaufort Regional Sensitivity Atlas*[6] by Environment Canada. Other traditional knowledge is being collected through other initiatives, including one started by the BREA Socio-economic and Cultural Indicators Working Group.

10. **Hold additional workshops on different facets of oil spills and responses.**

Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.
Although the BREA Final Results Forum, held in February 2015, provided some information on oil spills and responses, more workshops should be considered if drilling becomes more certain. AANDC, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are suggested as potential leads for this recommendation.

BREA Study Recommendations 11 to 14 and Status

11. Have one or more trained communications people in communities.
12. Prepare to have Inuvialuit experience and expertise ready—capacity building.
13. Identify potential funding sources for training.
14. Use local facilities for training whenever possible.

Status: To be considered or initiated if the prospect of drilling becomes more certain.

BREA Working Group Final Recommendations

The Working Group strongly recommends that, if offshore drilling becomes more certain, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada follow up on all the recommendations of the Training Needs Study to determine which ones can be actioned.

The Working Group further recommends that, in the meantime, AANDC periodically or annually review the recommendations and advise the Inuvialuit communities of the status on actions, if any.