



Service NL
March 27, 2013

Carl Hann
Manager of Operations
GSC, Service NL
637-2446
chann@gov.nl.ca

Waterlines in soil impacted by petroleum hydrocarbons

- **Summarize 3 incidents**
- **Who was involved**
- **Health concerns**
- **Financial concerns**
- **An Environmental Site Professional is required for assessment, remediation and testing**
- **Polluter pays if can be determined, otherwise it's the property owner**

Legislative Authority



- legal authority..... ***Environmental Protection Act.***
- **Section 99 ...subsection 3 states:**

99.(3) In addition to other requirements that may be included in an order issued under this Part, an order may contain provisions

- (a) requiring a person, at that person's own expense, to
 - (i) maintain records on a relevant matter and report periodically to the minister or a person appointed by the minister,
 - (ii) hire an expert to prepare a report for submission to the minister or a person appointed by the minister,
 - (iii) submit to the minister or a person appointed by the minister, a proposal, plan or information specified by the minister setting out an action to be taken by the person,
 - (iv) prepare and submit a contingency plan,
 - (v) undertake tests, investigations, surveys and other action and report results of these to the minister, and
 - (vi) take another measure that the minister considers necessary to facilitate compliance with the order or to protect or restore the environment;
- (b) establishing the manner, method, or procedures to be used in carrying out the measures required by the order; and
- (c) establishing a time within which a measure required by the order is to be commenced and the time within which the measure, order or a portion of the measure or order must occur.

Case #1



- **May 30, 2011 received complaint from Town**
- **Evidence of diesel/furnace oil when digging to find /repair leaks in waterlines**
- **Environmental Protection Officer visited that day**
- **Investigation revealed property owner above area has been getting furnace oil in 5 gallon buckets to fill his unapproved/expired fuel oil tank**
- **Lawn did have signs of staining, neighbors suggested he did remove some soil from area earlier and replaced with topsoil**
- **Weeping tile flows towards a ditch in side yard...which drains towards road (waterline)**

- **Excavation of the water main area had smell and sheen of contamination**
- **Town advised to stop work until consultant assessed the situation**
- **Water resources and Municipal Affairs were advised / consulted.**
- **A non-consumption order was issued for that section of Town (thru Medical Officer of Health)**
- **Consultants proposed a plan for repairing the leaks while minimizing risk to the community.**

- **Water service line to the suspected residence was cutoff and an above ground line was installed for water service.**
- **Consultants plan was reviewed and approved by GSC, Western Health, Mun. Affairs and Water Resources**
- **Only the area around the waterline was remediated**
- **25 tons of contaminated soil and 2000L of oily water removed**
- **Issue regarding safety of the water has been addressed**
- **Issue for the private property is still ongoing**

Case # 2



- **July 19, 2011 complaint from an LSD that resident had oily taste / smell on their water**
- **Maintenance man excavated curb stop (last one on line).....encountered fuel smell**
- **Water Resources, Mun. Affairs & Western Health consulted**
- **Unused curb stop up line was excavated...house connected to that curb stop.**
- **Homeowner deceased.....house was rented**
- **Alleged that the deceased was a retired school bus driver for private contractors.**

- Had an oil tank on Transportation right of way for years to re-fuel bus
- Tank removed 4-6 years earlier when he retired
- Couldn't determine when or which contractor owned tank when spill occurred....so polluter couldn't be determined.
- As this happened at very end of the line, that section of line was shut offthereby removing potential threat to the water distribution system.
- Site being remediated

Case #3



- **Oct 24th, 2011 LSD encountered staining and fuel odor while excavating to repair a leaky waterline.**
- **Source appeared to be a parking area used for years by locals alongside the road.**
- **Western Health, Water Resources and Mun. Affairs were advised consulted.**
- **Mun. Affairs assisted in assessing the situation with the goal of restoring the water....which was shut off for the repair.**
- **Consultant brought in...approx. 120 tonnes of impacted soil removed.**

- **Water was off for about 5 days**

Summary



- Water and public safety is the 1st priority.
- Remediation takes time...doesn't happen overnight
- These cases happened in a small Town and a LSD
- Various Agencies, Departments are there to assist provide guidance.
- Spills must be reported / addressed in a timely manner, or it complicates matters even more.
- This small Town and the LSD involved were very cooperative and handled it very professionally.