

Ministerial Order issued in environmental appeal

Updated March 20, 2019

Alberta Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips has issued a Ministerial Order outlining timelines for testing and remediation of the former Domtar site in Edmonton, as well as surrounding communities.

The Environmental Appeals Board has released its recommendations report in the matter of appeals filed by Cherokee Canada Inc., 1510837 Alberta Ltd. and Domtar Inc.

The Minister accepted the Board's recommendations, and has issued a Ministerial Order with detailed steps to proceed with remediation of the site, as well as two Environmental Protection Orders related to the Verte Homesteader and Overlanders communities to ensure further testing and remediation.

"My main priority is the residents around the site. As the final decision-maker in these appeals, I must ensure their health, safety, and well-being are protected in both the short term and the long term. This decision provides more clarity and certainty for residents, adding specific timelines by which the responsible parties must take action on risk mitigation and remediation."
Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister responsible for the Climate Change Office

In addition, the Ministerial Order mandates that further testing and remediation work by the responsible parties be reviewed by Alberta's Environment and Parks' Chief Scientist.

"The Chief Scientist, who provides independent oversight and reports directly to the public, must review their information and actions. This decision will also help ensure that the responsible parties provide residents full transparency, including requiring bi-monthly communications with people living in the area."
Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister responsible for the Climate Change Office

Related information

[Minister's Order, EPOs, and EAB Report and Recommendations](#)

Media inquiries

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The Board's recommendations did not take into consideration the new testing results, and health outcomes issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, as this information was not before the Board at the time of the hearings. The Ministerial Order requires that all available information, including the new testing and health outcomes, be fully considered in responding to the orders.

The report can be found online at: [Minister's Order, EPOs, and EAB Report and Recommendations](#)

Ministerial Order timeline:

- Temporary Dust Control – within 7 days
- Dust Control – within 60 days
- Site Delineation, including delineation of the berm – completed within 150 days
- Conceptual Site Model – within 180 days
- Human Health Risk Assessments – within 210 days
- Site-Specific Risk Assessments – within 210 days
- Long-Term Monitoring Plans – developed and implemented within 240 days
- Reclamation and Remediation Plans – completed within 360 days

Environmental Protection Orders timeline:

- Site Delineation – completed within 150 days
- Reclamation and Remediation Plans – completed within 280 days
- The work done under the Ministerial Order will also be used to inform the work done under the Environmental Protection Orders.