

## Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM)

### 2016-2017 PROJECT PLAN SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>W1-1-2 Water Quality Monitoring</b>
<b>Type of Project:</b>	Long Term
<b>Delivery Agent:</b>	ECCC/AEP
<b>Project Contact:</b>	Colin Cooke (AEP) - colin.cooke@gov.ab.ca Nancy Glozier (ECCC) - nancy.glozier@canada.ca
<b>Budget:</b>	\$ 5,757,450

#### **Project Description:**

Water quality data collected to assess status and trends, and to support interpretation of aquatic chemistry and ecosystem (fish and benthos) monitoring information, water quality management policy and water quality modelling. Water samples are collected at key monitoring sites throughout the lower Athabasca River system, and in downstream receiving environments, for water quality analysis. These sites represent the core water quality network and consist of sites that are designated as primary, secondary, tertiary and baseline according to the function of the site within the monitoring system.

#### **Project Objectives:**

The establishment of long-term water quality data record to assess status and trends, to support modelling activities and the interpretation of aquatic ecosystem based measures, and to inform assessments of potential impacts related to resource extraction. The design of the program is adaptive in the sense that decision triggers that inform the management of the program will be integral to the work.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

Water quality data which will support a comprehensive assessment of changes in water chemistry related stressors and their ecological effects. Data is reviewed, verified and validated and released on the JOSM portal.

#### **Geographic Scope:**

The geographic scope extends north from the Town of Athabasca (M0) to just upstream of the Athabasca River Delta (M9); the Peace and Slave rivers and tributaries; and key lakes in the Lower Athabasca (e.g., Kearn Lake).

#### **Associated Data and Reports:**

Water Quality Data to the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Portal. Reports include:

- Progress report on sampling conducted and data status
- Assessing Water Quality of the Athabasca River and EGA