



REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Field Environmental Monitors For Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Development Projects

**Saskatchewan Petroleum Industry /
Government Environment Committee
Guideline No. 6
January, 2002**

INTRODUCTION

Environmental monitors are often employed during upstream oil and natural gas exploration and development projects. For example, government would require the presence of a monitor where the project in question is planned for an environmentally sensitive location. Further, several companies have internal standards or procedures which require the presence of a monitor in prescribed circumstances.

Typically, monitors are most often employed to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and environmental protection commitments made by proponents. As part of this work, monitors may be required to oversee and/or supervise a variety of activities such as clearing of vegetation, installing stream crossings or implementing erosion control programs. It is important that environmental monitors possess the necessary combination of education, experience and skills to fulfil the specific needs of the project, and to meet the expectations of government and industry. Following are suggested qualifications for Field Environmental Monitors.

QUALIFICATIONS

Formal Education

- Post-secondary degree or diploma in environmental or biological sciences. The needs of the project will determine the specific discipline/field of study appropriate to the work.

Knowledge

- Understanding of oil and natural gas exploration and development procedures and related environmental protection measures.
- Details of the proposed project – planned activities, environmental protection commitments, and proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
- Familiarity with the project area or similar environs.
- Awareness of regulatory requirements associated with, and the details of any authorizations granted for the project.

Abilities

- Observation and analytical skills.
- Verbal and written communications skills.
- Interpersonal skills / Conflict management.
- Problem solving / Decision making.

Experience

- Minimum three (3) years of field experience in comparable oil and natural gas exploration and/or development projects. Experience must be directly related to environmental considerations.
- Positive references from industry or government for previous monitoring duties must be provided.

Equivalencies

- Individuals having an equivalent combination of education, experience and/or skills may be retained to provide monitoring services. In such cases, the project proponent must be prepared to show that the selected monitor's qualifications compare with the benchmarks established by the above criteria.
- Formal certification through a program recognized by the proponent and/or regulatory agency may be considered equivalent to the above qualifications, provided that the certification requirements include considerations relevant to environmental monitoring.