



Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
6th Floor TD Centre, 1791 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9

Environmental Notice

Reporting of Spills and Halocarbon Releases

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Background

The CNSOPB's responsibilities for the oversight of oil and gas activities in the Nova Scotia offshore area are set out in the Accord Acts and associated Regulations.

Operators in the Nova Scotia offshore area are required to report incidents to the CNSOPB based on:

- the Accord Acts and associated Regulations and Guidelines,
- the Conditions of Authorization for the activity as issued by the CNSOPB; and
- commitments documented by the Operator in various plans connected with the activity.

The CNSOPB, in its coordination role with other Federal and Provincial departments and agencies, is obliged to consider in its incident reporting requirements that Operators are also required to report incidents to other regulators.

The CNSOPB (in conjunction with the C-NLOPB) has developed the "Guideline for the Reporting and Investigation of Incidents" (the Guidelines), prepared in consideration of both the oversight and coordination roles of the CNSOPB. These are routinely updated to address regulatory changes, policy changes, and Operator/CNSOPB incident reporting improvement opportunities. Recognizing that the joint nature of the Guidelines may require significant lead time in implementing change, Notices such as this one may be issued by an individual Board to expedite interim reporting changes.

This Notice is intended to clarify the requirements for the reporting of spills as described in the Guidelines, as well as the reporting of halocarbon releases, which are not explicitly covered in the Guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact:

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Health, Safety & Environment Advisor/Auditor
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CNSOPB - ENVIRONMENTAL NOTICE – Reporting of Spills

The following section “8.4.13 Spills” is intended to replace Section 8.4.13 of the Guidelines. Operators shall follow the process described here for reporting spills to the CNSOPB until further notice. Note that this CNSOPB spill reporting process does not release an Operator from the requirement to report spills to other regulators as noted in Section 8.2 of the Guidelines.

8.4.13 Spills

Any liquid discharge (includes emission or escape) **of petroleum** (includes oil or gas condensate that is produced, extracted or recovered) **or other chemical product** (includes hydrocarbons or other chemical products or substances) **from equipment subject to authorization by the CNSOPB** (includes wells, installations, equipment, facilities and support craft), **which enters the ocean, shall be reported to the CNSOPB as a spill.** The spill volume and the product spilled determine the required method of immediate reporting to the CNSOPB.

The following spills require **immediate verbal notification** and **written notification within 24 hours** to the CNSOPB. Call our Duty Officer at **(902)422-5588** (available 24 hours)

- Petroleum spills of 5 litres or greater
- Chemical product spills of 100 litres or greater

The following spills require **immediate email notification** and **next-business-day written notification** (unless otherwise requested sooner) to the CNSOPB. Email our Duty Officer at incident@cnsopb.ns.ca .

- Petroleum spills less than 5 litres
- Chemical product spills less than 100 litres

Written notification must provide all required information as described in Section 8.3.2 of the Guidelines.

CNSOPB - ENVIRONMENTAL NOTICE – Reporting of Halocarbon Releases

The following section “Halocarbon Releases” addresses subject matter that is not explicitly included in the current version of the Guidelines. The reporting process is intended to be aligned with the reporting requirements of Environment Canada’s “Federal Halocarbon Regulations” (FHR).

Operators should follow the process described here for reporting halocarbon releases to the CNSOPB until further notice.

Halocarbon Releases

Halocarbons include the following whether present alone, in a mixture, or as an isomer:

- Tetrachloromethane
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform, but not including 1,1,2-trichloroethane)
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC)
- Bromofluorocarbons (including Halon 1211, Halon 1301, Halon 2402)
- Bromochloromethane (Halon 1011)
- Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFC)
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFC)

Any release to the natural environment (includes discharge, emission or escape) **of more than 10 kg of halocarbon from equipment subject to authorization by the CNSOPB** (includes installations, facilities and support craft), **shall be reported to the CNSOPB.** The method of reporting to the CNSOPB will be determined by the volume of halocarbon released.

A halocarbon release of 100 kg or greater only requires written notification to the CNSOPB within 24 hours of becoming aware of the incident (as per Section 8.3.2 of the Guidelines). The report shall be submitted via email to incident@cnsopb.ns.ca . The CNSOPB shall be copied on each incident report submitted to Environment Canada, at the time it is submitted.

Halocarbon releases of more than 10 kg, but less than 100 kg require that the CNSOPB receive a copy of the semi-annual written report submitted to Environment Canada, at the time it is submitted. The report shall be submitted via email to incident@cnsopb.ns.ca .