Johnson Street Bridge Early Marine Works Telus Cable Trenching Project –

Introduction
Ruskin Construction, on behalf of the City of Victoria (project proponent), contracted Castor Consultants Ltd. (Castor) to monitor the biological effects of marine trenching works at the Telus cable right-of-way across Victoria harbour immediately north of the Johnson Street Bridge. The following report describes the results of the monitoring on January 16, 2012 between 0930 and 1030 hours. The weather was overcast and the temperature was approximately 3 degrees. The tide was approximately 2.7 m and falling. No fish were observed along the shore during the inspection. Representative photographs are appended.

Methods
Rob Waters of Castor made a visual inspection of the site to observe the general site conditions and make recommendations as required on exposed soils and spoil pile containment.

Results
The west and east sides of the trench at the HWM were inspected. The works appeared to be focused on the east side of the trench, extending through and above the high water mark. The west side exposed soils appeared to be stable. The trench on the east side appeared to be stable and a spoil pile of trench excavation material that had been placed at the HWM had been removed upland. The silt fence for this pile remained in place but needed minor maintenance to ensure tidal and wash effects were limited on the remaining exposed soils.

The trenching material spoil pile appeared to be located entirely on the old asphalt parking area for the old, and since defunct, train station, well away from drains and tidewater exposure. The material appeared to be mixed fills with some gravel. Ruskin was at the time awaiting laboratory results, which will determine whether the material will be re-used on site or disposed of at an approved landfill.

Conclusions and Recommendations
Generally at the time of inspection the mitigation measures employed appeared to be controlling fugitive materials from escaping the area into tidewater.

Ruskin was contacted and it was recommended that the silt fence at tidewater be repaired to ensure the fence covers the area appropriately. Although the noted spoil piles are only on site temporarily Ruskin was alerted to the potential for the spoil piles to [if exposed to heavy rains] generate silty runoff. It was recommended that suitable materials to mitigate such an occurrence be on hand to control silty runoff.

Prepared by
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Appendix 1. Representative Site Photographs

Spoil pile on asphalt surface

Silt fence adjacent exposed soil surface in need of repair

Repaired silt fence.