CN's Environmental Response to the Gogama Derailments

Aaron Stadnyk	CN
Ryan Shepherd	GHD
Dan Murray	GHD
Brad Free	GHD

On February 14, 2015, a CN unit train carrying crude oil derailed at approximate mile post (MP) 111.6 of the Ruel Subdivision, north of Gogama, Ontario. The derailment at MP 111.6 involved 17 crude oil cars, some of which were on fire, all of which released crude oil to the environment. On March 7, 2015, a second CN unit train carrying crude oil derailed at approximate MP 88.7 of the Ruel Subdivision within the community of Gogama. The derailment at MP 88.7 involved 35 crude oil cars, some of which were on fire, all of to the environment.

Two derailments of this magnitude less than 30 miles apart and only three weeks apart was unprecedented for CN. Both derailments involved crude oil releases to the air (primarily from the fires), to the ground surface, and to adjacent surface water bodies.

This presentation will provide an overall summary of CN's environmental response to the events, including product containment and recovery; aboriginal and community engagement; regulatory liaison and engagement; air, surface water, potable water, groundwater, soil, and sediment sampling and investigation; wildlife management; fish and benthic sampling; soil and sediment remediation; and site restoration efforts. The presentation will also highlight a variety of lessons learned on both events, from product behavior in the environment, to product recovery and containment, to stakeholder engagement.