

Coalbed Methane/Natural Gas in Coal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee (the Committee)  
Meeting Minutes  
Red Deer Provincial Building, Room 111  
January 14, 2004  
9:00 to 4:00

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In attendance:

Mike Ekelund (chair)	Department of Energy
Peter Watson (alternate chair)	Department of Environment
Dave Bartesko (alternate)	Sustainable Resource Development
Sharil Baumgardner	Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Committee
Don Bester	Butte Action Committee/Rimby & District Clean Air People
Robert Donick	The Coal Association of Canada
Mike Gatens	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers / Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas / Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Mary Griffiths	Alberta Environmental Network Society
John Jensen	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers / Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas / Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Phyllis Kobasiuk	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties
Brad Murray	Freehold Petroleum & Natural Gas Owners Association
Tom Nahirniak	Alberta Surface Rights Federation
Gene Rawe (alternate)	Alberta Beef Producers
Bob Willard	Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
Gene Roach (facilitator)	Community Development
Karen Henderson (secretary)	Alberta Energy
Tom Byrnes (observer)	Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
Larry Charach (observer)	Alberta Energy
Barry Cole (observer)	Sustainable Resource Development
Nga De la Cruz (observer)	Alberta Environment
Sharla Rauschnig (observer)	Alberta Energy

**Welcome and Introductions**

- The meeting started at 9:00. Committee members shared information about themselves and their interest in Coalbed Methane, also known as Natural Gas in Coal (NGC).

## **Roles and Expectations**

The roles of the following, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

- **Chair** –Mike Ekelund
- **Alternate Chair** – Peter Watson
- **Secretariat** – Karen Henderson
- **Co-chair** – the Committee decided that there would not be a Co-chair for the Committee.

### ***ACTION***

- *The role of Co-chair is to be removed from the ToR.*

## **Expenses**

- Committee members who do not receive payment from their place of employment to attend meetings will be eligible to receive remuneration from the government.
- Committee and working group members would qualify for reimbursement of meals and mileage incurred to attend meetings.

### ***ACTION***

- *Details regarding these will be forwarded to Committee members by the Secretariat.*

## **Information/Confidentiality**

- All records created are subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act*. The Committee decided that, whenever possible, the process should be as transparent and as public as possible.

### ***ACTION***

- *Acronyms will be spelled out in full at least once in any minutes or documents for Committee use.*
- *Minutes will be marked “draft” when distributed and will be ratified by Committee members at the next meeting.*

## **Media**

- Any member is free to speak to the media at anytime, subject to any restrictions imposed by their place of employment or organization.
- Mike Ekelund will act as spokesperson for the Committee, when appropriate.

## **Working Principles**

- The Committee agreed members should; respect the views of others; aim for consensus or majority/minority decision; stay focused on the task at hand; be well prepared and informed; actively participate; bring the views of the individual groups to the table; be candid; and if they or the Committee as a whole make a commitment, honour it.
- In order to facilitate understanding of issues involving a large amount of information, appropriate department representatives will consider preparing an overview.

## **Consultation Background and Purpose**

- Sharla provided a brief presentation on this topic.

### **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

- The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development will be invited to be a member of the Committee.
- Participation from Aboriginal groups on the Committee will continue to be encouraged.

### ***ACTION***

- *On page 2, fourth bullet, change the word “processes” to “philosophy”.*
- *On page 4, under “Confidentiality”, the second bullet should read “...and will be released after the committee’s approval is given, unless otherwise specified”. The intent is to be as open and accountable as possible.*
- *The role of “Co-chair” is to be deleted from the ToR.*
- *Under “Timeframe” there will be two bullets; one indicating that recommendations be forwarded to the ADM Sponsor Committee as they are approved by the Committee; and all recommendations will be forwarded by November 1, 2004.*
- *Amendments to the draft will be made and distributed to Committee members. Each document will be identified as “draft” and the number of the version, until such time as it is ratified by the Committee.*

### **Name of Committee**

- The Committee wanted to ensure their name included both the term NGC as well as the term, “Coalbed Methane”.

### ***ACTION***

- *The name of the Committee is the “Coalbed Methane/ Natural Gas in Coal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee.”*

### **Consultation Structure**

- Sharla provided a presentation on this topic.

### **Issues**

- The “Natural Gas in Coal Key Issues” document was reviewed. The Committee recommended addition of the following:

### ***ACTION***

- *“Hydraulic fracturing fluids” will be added under “Water”.*
- *“Community development impacts” will be added under “Information & Public Awareness”.*
- *“Setback requirements” will be added under “Surface/Air Impacts”.*
- *“Radioactive tracers” will be added under “Water”.*
- *Under “Water” the sixth bullet will be replaced with “Clarify the roles of the Energy and Utilities Board, Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Administration with regards to water”. This amendment is dependant on the participation of Agriculture on the Committee.*
- *A draft document will be prepared with these amendments and will be forwarded to the Committee for ratification.*

## **Working Groups**

- As the mineral land tenure group has already been established, the Committee wants to receive a copy of their draft recommendations and determine if any further input from them is required.
- There will initially be three working groups:

### *Water*

- The group will be chaired by Dave Trew of Alberta Environment.
- Committee members suggested appropriate representation may include representatives from the University, SRD, Rural Utilities and perhaps a water hydrology expert, who also has the ability to communicate effectively with the public.

### *Surface/Air Issues*

- The group will potentially be chaired by Dave Bartesko of Sustainable Resource Development.

## **ACTION**

- *Each group will be composed of 12 to 15 members.*
- *Committee members will forward names of prospective members to Karen no later than January 20.*
- *The proposed list will be brought back to the Committee prior to the February 9 meeting, for their approval.*
- *The first meeting should occur on or before February 15.*
- *Peter Watson will talk to the federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans, to see if they are interested in being part of the consultation process, even if they act as Observers.*
- *Peter Watson will draft a plan and Terms of Reference for the Water working group for the February 9 meeting.*
- *With regards to mineral land tenure, the Committee members will receive a copy of their draft recommendation report. If there is anything further they want added or considered, the report would be returned to the land tenure group for their consideration.*
- *A letter from Energy will be sent Committee members and invitees to the September 2003 pre-consultation to submit names of potential members.*
- *The letter will also allow the option of organizations preparing submissions for the consideration of the working groups.*

### *Royalty*

- The existing working group is chaired by Barry Rodgers, Alberta Energy.
- The group is very technical in focus and does not have a draft set of recommendations at this point.

## **ACTION**

- *The letter to invitees will also include an invitation to participate on the royalty working group. Because of the technical nature of the group, prospective members will be invited to discuss their interest with a Department of Energy representative.*

### **Public Information Sessions**

- The Committee recommended that public information sessions should tentatively be held at Wetaskiwin, Barrhead, Rocky Mountain House, Strathmore, Stettler and Crowsnest.
- The purpose of the sessions will be to share information and gather input, both written and verbal, for the working groups and/or Committee.
- The lead in organizing these will be taken by Energy.
- Generally the Committee felt the sessions should include a number of wall displays, covering NGC and the consultation process from start to where we are now. This should be followed by a short presentation from government. Opportunity will be provided for those attending to submit questions or concerns, both verbally and in writing.
- Representation from the Committee at these meetings was seen as being important to help support the position that this is an open, accountable and credible process.

### ***ACTION***

- *Sharla Rauschnig, Mike Gatens, John Jensen, Don Bester, Dave Bartesko and Gene Rawe will prepare an initial proposal for the Committee.*
- *Names of other members interested in preparing this should be forwarded to Sharla.*
- *The group will also consider how the Committee will participate. It was generally agreed each member would attempt to attend 2 or 3 of the sessions.*

### **Next Meeting**

- The Committee agreed that Red Deer was a central place in which to meet. The next date is February 9.

### ***ACTION***

- *Dave Bartesko agreed that Sustainable Resource Development would cover the cost of the next meeting room. He will try to make arrangements to secure the next meeting place.*
- *The next agenda will include review of all draft documents from this meeting, including the ToR, Working Groups, and issues document.*

### **Future Dates**

Dates of future meetings are as follows:

February 9, 2004

March 8, 2004

April 5, 2004

May 10, 2004

All of the above meetings are scheduled to be held in Red Deer.