

Natural Gas in Coal (NGC) Consultation Update

March 2004

The NGC consultation is a cross-government effort to determine if changes to the regulatory framework are required for responsible NGC development. Highlights from the planned consultation will be periodically posted on the web at www.energy.gov.ab.ca (click on Natural Gas, and follow the link to Natural Gas in Coal).

Community information-sharing sessions will be held this spring!

This spring, community information-sharing sessions will be held in Rocky Mountain House, Wetaskiwin, Stettler, Barrhead, Strathmore, Drayton Valley, and Pincher Creek to give Albertans the information they need about natural gas in coal and local development, and to get feedback for the consultation. All interested Albertans are welcome to attend.

Community	Date	Location
Rocky Mountain House	March 30, 2004	Rocky Community Centre 47 Street, Kamikawa Drive
Wetaskiwin	March 31, 2004	Memorial Arts Centre 5003 – 52 Avenue
Stettler	April 1, 2004	Stettler Community Hall 5101 – 46 Avenue
Barrhead	April 6, 2004	Royal Canadian Legion 5024 – 51 Street
Strathmore	April 7, 2004	Strathmore Family Centre 160 Brent Boulevard
Drayton Valley	April 8, 2004	Drayton Valley Omniplex 5737 – 45 Avenue
Pincher Creek	April 15, 2004	Pincher Creek Heritage Inn 919 Waterton Avenue, Highway #6

All sessions will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Stakeholders participate on provincial working groups

Information from these sessions will be sent to provincial working groups, where a cross-section of stakeholders are studying surface, water, and air issues associated with natural gas in coal. Work is already underway on royalty and tenure. These working groups will present their findings to the multi-stakeholder advisory group, who will use it to develop recommendations for submission to government in November 2004.

By the numbers...

- Alberta had record oil and gas drilling activity in 2003 with about 15,000 new wells drilled for oil, gas, and bitumen.
- Natural gas represented nearly 75 per cent of the new wells.
- About 1,000 natural gas in coal wells were drilled in Alberta by the end of 2003. Of those wells, about 400 have had some production.