

## **Preliminary NGC Key Issues**

*The following issues list was ratified by the CBM/NGC Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee on February 9, 2004 and was provided to help establish working groups. Issues related to NGC in Alberta continue to be identified and refined as the consultation process proceeds. Working group updates, including issues, will be added to the web as they become available.*

## **Natural Gas in Coal Key Issues**

The following issues are based on stakeholder input collected at the Natural Gas in Coal (NGC) pre-consultation on September 12, 2003, stakeholder input received at local community meetings, the September 2003 Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers NGC position paper, and the June 2003 Pembina Institute paper on *Unconventional Gas*. These sources identified a number of issues, which have been summarized below. The consultation will examine issues as they relate to the development of NGC in Alberta.

## **Potential NGC Issue Categories**

### **Water**

- Sustainability of aquifers
- Potential for commingling of different quality water
- Appropriate approach for the use and/or disposal of saline and non-saline water
- Potential gas migration into aquifers
- Possible contamination of aquifers
- Clarify roles of the Energy and Utilities Board, the Department of Environment, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development in relation to water
- Cumulative impacts of dewatering aquifers
- Baseline information requirements for aquifer quality and quantity
- Abandonment and reclamation liability related to water
- Hydraulic fracturing fluids
- Radioactive tracers

### **Surface/Air Impacts**

- Well density
- Flaring and venting
- Noise and dust of industrial activity
- Infrastructure requirements
- Competing land use interests
- Environmental impact (habitat fragmentation)
- Cumulative impacts – balance between NGC development and local communities
- Setback requirements

### **Regulatory Processes**

- Application and approval processes (Sustainable Resource Development, Environment, Energy and Utilities Board)
- Project based integrated development plans

- Resources to monitor and enforce regulatory compliance

### **Information and Public Awareness**

- Public involvement in applications and approval process (Sustainable Resource Development, Environment, Energy and Utilities Board)
- Use of best industry practices/guidelines
- Inform Albertans about NGC development compared to conventional gas
- Access to data (e.g., duration of data confidentiality, experimental status)
- Data collection requirements for industry and public (Energy and Utilities Board)
- Long-term value for Albertans (revenue, jobs, etc.)
- Community development impacts

### **Innovative Technologies**

- Research to improve development and extraction methods

### **Royalty**

- Appropriateness of existing royalty regime for NGC

### **Mineral Land Tenure**

- Administration of petroleum & natural gas leases
- Crown/freehold mineral ownership