

## News Release

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **BITUMEN CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS NEXT STEPS ANNOUNCED**

**Calgary, Alberta (December 17, 2003)** The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) has announced the next steps in the EUB's bitumen conservation requirements process in a letter and attached document from EUB Chairman Neil McCrank to parties involved in the bitumen conservation issue. The timeline for the next steps in the process is as follows:

**January 2, 2004**

EUB Regional Geological Study released.

**January 26, 2004**

EUB staff submission group release recommendations to continue or vary gas production status of wells subject to EUB General Bulletin (GB) 2003-28.

**February 9, 2004**

Parties that disagree with the recommendations must notify the EUB's Board of the wells for which they wish to present their case at the interim hearing.

**February 23, 2004**

Parties file evidence supporting their case.

**March 1, 2004**

Parties file reply evidence.

**March 8, 2004**

EUB interim hearing begins.

**Date to be determined**

EUB final hearing begins, if required.

The EUB's bitumen conservation requirements were set out in EUB General Bulletin (GB) 2003-28 to address the immediate and continued risk of natural gas production on bitumen recovery in an area of concern in the Athabasca Oil Sands Area. They are the result of six years of consultation and work by the EUB.

The EUB ensures that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources and utilities services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

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This news release and associated documents are available on the EUB Web site at [www.eub.gov.ab.ca](http://www.eub.gov.ab.ca).

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