

RECENT ERCB PUBLICATIONS

DECISIONS

May 20: Decision 2008-040: West Energy Ltd., Board-Initiated Review Hearing Regarding Decision 2007-061 Pembina Field, Proceeding No. 1545126

May 13: Decision 2008-038: EnCana Corporation Applications for a Well Licence and a Pipeline Licence, Ghost Pine Field

May 1: Decision 2008-036: Apache Canada Ltd., Applications for a Well Licence and Pipeline Licence, Nevis Field

BULLETINS

May 15: Bulletin 2008-23: Consolidation of Upper Horseshoe Canyon Coal Zones for CBM

May 1: Bulletin 2008-21: *Directive 017: Measurement Requirements for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations—Draft of Two New Sections and Additions to Existing Sections for Stakeholder Review*

April 29: Bulletin 2008-20: *Directive 062: Coalbed Methane Control Well Requirements and Related Matters Issued and Revision to ST105: PVT and Core Studies Index*

DIRECTIVES

May 15: Directive 068: ERCB Security Deposits

May 1: Directive 017: Measurement Requirements for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations—Draft of Section 10 and 11 and additions to existing sections for stakeholder review

April 29: Directive 062: Coalbed Methane Control Well Requirements and Related Matters

April 25: Directive 027 Shallow Fracturing Operations—Interim Controls, Restricted Operations, and Technical Review

NEWS RELEASES

May 20: News Release 2008-05-20 (NR 2008-10): EUB issues decision on West Energy egress road

May 1: News Release 2008-05-01 (NR 2008-09): Cleanup in closing stages at site of pipeline leak near Smith

April 30: News Release 2008-04-30 (NR 2008-08): ERCB working with emergency services following crude oil effluent pipeline leak near Smith

New report a one-stop source on regulatory initiatives

The ERCB has created the Regulatory Management Program to help improve its regulatory framework and increase customer awareness of regulatory changes. As part of the program, the ERCB developed the Regulatory Change Report, a one-stop source that provides information to the public and industry about the ERCB's regulatory initiatives.

The report divides regulatory changes into four categories:

- Planned—regulatory changes anticipated to start within the calendar year
- In progress—regulatory changes in development, with various timelines and informal consultation
- Open for comment—regulatory changes for which the formal consultation/comment period is open
- Closed for comment—regulatory changes for which the formal consultation/comment period is over

The report will be updated as changes occur. In addition, regulatory plans and priorities may change as new issues arise.

The Regulatory Change Report is found on the ERCB Web site www.ercb.ca under Projects and Issues on the left-hand side of the page. The Public Zone and Industry Zone pages also provide links to the report. Feedback and suggestions on improving the report can be e-mailed to ercb.regman@ercb.ca.

Monitoring a moving mountain *(continued from page 1)*

In recent years the ERCB has worked with government agencies and first responders to develop an emergency response plan that can be enacted at any time of day, regardless of weather or power outages.

Operational funding from the provincial government and industry has enabled the ERCB to expand the Turtle Mountain Monitoring System. In 2003, the Government of Alberta announced \$1.1 million in funding for the project.

ERCB sniffing out groundwater

Laurence Andriashek and his team are in the hunt for groundwater.

But instead of a divining rod, Andriashek, who leads the Groundwater Inventory section for the Alberta Geological Survey (AGS), a branch of the ERCB, has opted for a high-tech airborne method to find, evaluate, and classify bigger and better groundwater sources to satisfy Alberta's thirst for decades to come.

"Groundwater has the capacity to provide some of our water needs that otherwise would not be available for that purpose," Andriashek says.

Alberta's hot economy has meant that the province's population has grown quickly in recent years. This population growth is forecast to explode in the next few decades, and nowhere will it be greater than in the Edmonton-Calgary corridor, considered to be the fastest growing in Canada.

Such growth will continue to place pressure on Alberta's surface water sources, Andriashek says.

"Already we know that access to surface water in parts of the province has been curtailed. No new water licences are being issued in the South Saskatchewan River basin, so we know there are pressures on water in Alberta and we know that with increased economic activity and population growth there are going to be increasing draws on a finite amount of water."

Since last November, a twin-engine airplane and a helicopter have been crisscrossing central Alberta, fitted with sensors that emit electrical currents that reach far below the Earth's surface. The plane records images of the geology in swaths as wide as 800 metres (m) and to a depth of 250 m,



Type of aircraft being used in groundwater search.

while the helicopter records more detailed images up to 200 m wide and 100 m deep.

The work has begun with a scheduled four-year survey of the area between Edmonton and Calgary. New sampling wells will confirm aquifer limits mapped out by the aircraft, while the ERCB will draw upon its extensive databanks of the area's geology.

"The airborne geophysics really allows us to put limits and boundaries on things. If you factor in the actual cost of drilling a well and also the challenge of getting access to do that, you can imagine that you'd be doing it for years to get the same scope and range of data," Andriashek says.

The geologist notes that the best producing aquifers see water enter and exit quickly. In such aquifers, water molecules have little time to absorb minerals, which makes the water fresh and clean. "Your best resource would be that which is able to produce large volumes of high-quality water. That is the ideal."

While the ERCB has a clear picture of how large oil pools relate to one another, the same cannot be said for groundwater reservoirs. Current information from individual water

wells fails to provide scientists with a clear understanding of how a given well relates to the others around it, Andriashek says.

"Are they all drawing water from the same zones, the same unit, or the same pool? We need some way of integrating like-geological bodies that have the same properties, and the airborne geophysics allows us to map that information more soundly."

The next phase of the project will see the ERCB embark on a summer program to drill, core, and log the key sites that the airborne survey has shown as likely to contain the best aquifer zones in an effort to confirm the data that have been collected to date.

More aerial surveys are also planned. So far about 13 500 square kilometres of central Alberta have been mapped by air, or roughly 25 per cent of the total corridor area.

"We have funding in place to do another 10 000 kilometres this year as well," Andriashek says.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1513726	EUB initiated	Inquiry into the issues related to natural gas liquids extraction
Start Date:	May 27 – 30, ERCB Calgary Office, Govier Hall	
1512009	EOG Resources Canada	Application for a natural gas pipeline, Hanna Area
Start Date:	June 3 – 4, Stettler Community Hall, 5009 – 46 St., Stettler AB	
1516336	Burlington Resources Canada	Application for a natural gas pipeline, Bonanza area
Start Date:	June 3 – 5, Beaverlodge Community Centre, 1014 – 4 Ave., Beaverlodge AB	
1525928 1525932 1526517 1526699 1526703 1526582	Highpine Energy Ltd.	Applications for six oil wells with 16 per cent H ₂ S, Tomahawk Field
Start Date:	Jun 13 – 30, Tomahawk & District AgriCentre, 51122 Secondary Highway 759, Tomahawk AB	
1490956	Petro-Canada Oil Sands Inc. Paramount Resources Ltd.	Application for Approval of Proposed Sturgeon (Fort Hills) Upgrader
Start Date	June 23 – 30, Lakeview Inns & Suites, 10115 – 88 Ave., Fort Saskatchewan AB	
1519973	OMERS Energy Inc.	Application for a pipeline to transport natural gas, Royal Field
Start Date:	July 3 – 4, Vegreville Garden Inn, 6041 – 50 Ave., Vegreville AB	
1518483 1525506 1525527 1525629	CNRL	Applications for a crude bitumen well, four pipelines, and a multiwell oil battery, Bentley Field
Start Date:	July 8 – 9, St. Paul Recreation Centre, 4802–53 St., St. Paul AB	
1556255	Detector Exploration Ltd.	Application for compulsory pooling, Pembina Field
Start Date:	July 16 – 17, ERCB Calgary Office, Govier Hall	
1551722	EnCana Corporation	Application for a holding for the production of gas from the Viking, Basal Colorado, Mannville, Nikanassin, and Rock Creek Formations, Lawrence Field
Start Date:	July 21, ERCB Calgary Office, Govier Hall	
1554650	Quicksilver Resources Canada Inc.	Application to amend the surface coordinates and ground elevation of well licence #0367489 – Honeysuckle Field
Start Date:	July 22 – 24, Best Western Wayside Inn, 4103–56 St., Westaskiwin AB	
1543589	Standard Energy Inc.	Application for a crude oil multi-well pad – Grande Prairie Field
	Best Western Grande Prairie, 10745–117 Ave., Grande Prairie AB	

PENDING DECISIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1515252	CNRL	Application for a Natural Gas pipeline with no H ₂ S, Wetaskiwin Area
1513307	Desoto Resources Ltd. (Written Proceeding)	Section 40 Review of DeSoto Resources Ltd. Well Licence No. 0365128
1501146	Nonroutine complaint regarding stray voltage on George and Karen Gray's farm (Cancelled Hearing)	Complaint Regarding Stray Voltage on George and Karen Gray's Farm
1530666	EnCana Corporation (Cancelled Hearing)	Application for a natural gas pipeline with 0.99 per cent H ₂ S, Irricana Field

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Questions, complaints, problems?

For information or complaints about new or existing oil and gas developments and facilities, we recommend contacting the operating company first. If the company does not respond appropriately, you may contact the nearest ERCB Field Centre.

ERCB Field Centres (24-hour service)

Bonnyville	780-826-5352*
Drayton Valley	780-542-5182*
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