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Hay-Zama Wildland Park: EUB plays role in protecting special area

THE HAY-ZAMA WILDLAND PARK is 486 square kilometres (km²) of land in northwest Alberta, about 110 km west of High Level. In 1982, the Hay-Zama complex received international recognition when it was designated as a Wet-

landerness Association, the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency, Dene Tha' First Nation, Ducks Unlimited, the EUB, Sustainable Resource Development, and the oil and

One primary goal of EUB involvement in the Hay-Zama Committee is to help the diverse participants work towards resolution through constructive discussion.

land of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The park is a large wetland complex of shallow lakes and meandering rivers sitting above an oil and gas reserve. As a result, there are oil and gas wells within the Hay-Zama Wildland Park.

gas industry, including Castle River Resources, Crispin Energy, and Navigo Energy (formerly Ventus Energy). This committee has worked to balance the cultural, environmental, and economic realities of the Hay-Zama Complex.

Why is the Hay-Zama Wildland Park important?

The Hay-Zama Wildland Park has been recognized for its ecological values for many years by the aboriginal people who live there and by agencies whose mandate is conservation and management of areas of ecological importance.

How is this committee unique?

The Hay-Zama Committee is unique because of its transparent "bottom-up" process. The ideas and visions are generated using a simple concept: economic activities, environmental sensitivities, and cultural priorities can coexist.

The committee's diverse participants work to reach consensus. The decision-making process is not a "majority rules" model, but a negotiation process that only ends when all participants feel they can embrace a final solution.

This wetlands complex is situated on three major waterfowl migration flyways and is one of North America's largest staging areas for migratory birds. The area is also the habitat for the only reintroduced wood bison herd in Alberta. Given the ecological importance of the Hay-Zama Wildland Park, there are special regulations in place that outline acceptable oil and gas operations. For example, each Spring and Fall, Alberta Environment and the Hay-Zama operators monitor fish and wildlife activity to determine whether there is a need to suspend wells, production facilities, construction, or servicing operations.

All participants in the committee understand that Hay-Zama is a place for nature, a place for people, including the Dene Tha' First Nation and appreciative visitors, and a place with a large hydrocarbon field beneath it. Oil companies may only tap into the hydrocarbon field with the utmost of care and due diligence, supported by comprehensive and special regulatory requirements.

How has the EUB supported Hay-Zama?

One primary goal of EUB involvement in the Hay-Zama Committee is to help the diverse participants work towards resolution through constructive discussion. In this way, the Committee has avoided the necessity for an EUB hearing.

How is the Hay-Zama area managed?

Since 1994, the Hay-Zama Committee has guided oil and gas development in the park. The committee is made up of people representing diverse organizations: the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Energy, the Alberta

Energy Resources *(continued on page 2)*

Public Safety and Sour Gas Web Information

The EUB's Public Safety and Sour Gas (PS&SG) Implementation Team is pleased to announce the availability of new Web-based information at <<http://www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/public/sourgas/home.htm>>. This new information is organized into five main categories:

- Health effects and sour gas research;
- Sour gas development planning and approval;
- Sour gas operations;
- Emergency preparedness; and
- Information, communication, and consultation.

These Web pages offer general information on sour gas, links to publications related to PS&SG projects, and a link to the Advisory Committee's Web site <www.publicsafetyandsourgas.org>.

Please e-mail <eub.publicsafety@gov.ab.ca> or call 297-3726 with general inquiries or feedback.

About the EUB

Our mission is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. We regulate oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, hydro and electric energy, pipelines, and transmission line development. On the utilities side, we regulate investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water utilities to ensure that customers receive safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. Regulation is done through four core functions: adjudication and regulation, applications, surveillance and enforcement, and information.

For Your Information...

Recent EUB Publications

Interim Directives

October 17: ID 2002-02: EUB Requirements for Submission of Data for Solution Gas Flaring and Venting Evaluations

General Bulletins

October 25: GB 2002-17: Electronic Application Submission: Phase I

October 24: GB 2002-16: Recision of Interim Directive (ID) 2000-10: Retrospective Facility Licensing Program and Guide 68: Retrospective Facility Licensing, October 2000

October 17: GB 2002-15: EUB Proposes Amendments to Guide 31A and Guide 31B to Address Appropriate Treatment of Costs with Respect to Review Requests

October 2: GB 2002-14: Drill Cuttings Submission Changes

September 27: GB 2002-13: New Application Guide for Electric Facilities

Publications

October 21: Order U2002-967: Application by ESBI Alberta Ltd. for Approval of a Transmission Facility Services Agreement with ATCO Utility Services Ltd.

September 27: Guide 28: Applications for Power Plants, Substations, and Transmission Lines

Recent Decisions

November 5: Decision 2002-099: Transmission Administrator Congestion Management Principles-The EUB issues a decision for the Transmission Administrator outlining principles for managing electricity transmission congestion in Alberta.

November 5: Decision 2002-090: Talisman Energy Canada, Enlargement of Turner Valley Unit No. 5, Turner Valley Field
The EUB issues a decision for Talisman Energy Canada regarding the enlargement of an area near Turner Valley where different owners of mineral rights operate together to create more efficient resource recovery.

November 5: Decision 2002-091: ATCO Electric Ltd. Isolated Generation Approval of Sale Offering
The EUB issues a decision for ATCO Electric Ltd. regarding the selling process for some of their isolated generating units.

October 29: Decision 2002-092: ATCO Gas South, a Division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. 2002/2003 Winter Storage Plan
The EUB issues a decision for ATCO Gas South regarding the 2002/2003 winter storage plan, which outlines the quantities of natural gas

injected into the storage facility located at Carbon, Alberta, and the strategy used to withdraw the gas throughout the upcoming winter season.

October 21: Decision 2002-089: TrueNorth Energy Corporation Application to Construct and Operate an Oil Sands Mine and Cogeneration Plant in the Fort McMurray Area

October 16: Decision 2002-088: EPCOR Distribution Inc. Temporary Exemption from the Code of Conduct Regulation

October 8: Decision 2002-087: ESBI Alberta Ltd. 2002 Tariff Refiling October 8, 2002

The EUB issues a decision for ESBI Alberta Ltd. (Alberta's Transmission Administrator) regarding the General Rate Application* and negotiated settlement** for 2002.

* General Rate Applications are filed annually with the EUB. They are assessed to ensure that the utility company's revenues are appropriate, reasonable, and fair for the public.

** A negotiated settlement is an agreement between the utility company and its stakeholders, including public representatives, on what is appropriate, reasonable and fair.

News Releases

October 25: NR 2002-25: EUB Establishes Principles for Electricity Transmission Congestion Management

October 21: NR 2002-24: EUB Approves, with Conditions, TrueNorth Oil Sands Application

October 9: NR 2002-23: EUB Grants Adjournment of Vermilion Resources Hearing

Recent AGS Publications

November 4: Geo-Note 2002-24: Northern Alberta Mosaic of RADARSAT-1 Principal Components Images Derived from S1/S7 Ascending/Descending Imagery

October 23: ESR 02-04: Hydrogeology and Stress Regime of the Upper Cretaceous-Tertiary Coal-Bearing Strata in Alberta

October 23: ESR 02-05: Regional Evaluation of the Coalbed Methane Potential of the Foothills/Mountains of Alberta (Second Edition)

October 23: ESR 02-06: Coalbed Methane Potential of Upper Cretaceous-Tertiary Strata, Alberta Plains

October 23: SPE 7: Regional Evaluation of the Coalbed Methane Potential in the Plains and Foothills of Alberta, Stratigraphy and Rank Study (digital version)

Hay-Zama Wildland Park:

EUB plays role in protecting special area

(continued from page 1)

Conservation Board, issued *Interim Directive (ID) 85-4*, which established the initial boundaries of the Hay-Zama Complex, restricted access to the complex for oil and gas development, and outlined specific technical guidelines for the production of oil and gas. *ID 85-4* was superseded by *ID 96-1*, which more clearly defined the complex boundaries using both biological and hydrological criteria. In addition, it identified the wetland areas most sensitive to the impacts from oil and gas development and expanded the special requirements for seismic, drilling, servicing, and production operations. The key objective of *ID 96-1* was to encourage the safe and rapid depletion of the oil and gas reserves and to prohibit surface development on mineral leases acquired within the complex after January 16, 1996.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the Hay-Zama Committee and both Ventus Energy and Crispin Energy guide the accelerated depletion of oil and gas reserves from the Hay-Zama Wildland Park.

ID 96-1 and the MOUs are key tools in directing oil and gas development in the park. While the EUB has played a role in the development and enforcement of special regulations, the Hay-Zama Committee continues to lead the protection of this special Alberta treasure.

ID 96-1 is available on the EUB Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca> or from EUB Information Services, telephone: (403) 297-8190. ❖



Public involvement and building positive relationships

AT THE HEART OF PUBLIC involvement is the desire to create positive, trusting relationships that foster innovative solutions when dealing with areas of conflicting interests.

The EUB serves a number of "publics," including the energy industry, the utilities industry, three levels of government, environmental groups, First Nations and Metis people, and especially individual Albertans and the communities in which they live. Each of these groups has an equal stake in the responsible development of Alberta's resources, and so they have a right to participate in the decision-making process that directly affects their lives and their communities.

Any EUB regulation, decision, or action must simultaneously address the public interest on three levels—individual, local, and provincial—as well as consider the social, environmental, and economic impacts.

Collaborative decisions

One of the ways that the EUB stays abreast of the issues and concerns of Albertans is participation in provincial synergy groups. A synergy group is an ongoing collaboration of diverse stakeholders (usually citizens, industry, and government) that undertake to resolve issues in a nonadversarial manner at the local level. Within these multistakeholder processes, citizens have the greatest opportunity for a strong voice in the decision-making process about resource development.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement

For ongoing EUB initiatives, the advice of stakeholders is imperative to ensuring that the public interest is being met. It is used as a benchmark throughout the project life cycle to ensure that deliverables will be in line with the original project intent.

A current example of ongoing stakeholder engagement is that occurring within the Public Safety and Sour Gas (PS&SG) initiative. During extensive

consultation with Albertans in 2000, the Provincial Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas identified issues relating to sour gas that needed improvement. As a result, the committee

made 87 recommendations regarding the EUB's approach to sour gas operations, development planning and approval, health effects, emergency preparedness, and communications.

As part of each recommendation's implementation, the EUB is seeking for input or advice from appropriate stakeholders during the revision and development of those procedures, regulations, or requirements related to sour gas.

Open houses

EUB open house sessions provide an opportunity to bring diverse members of the same community together in two-way communications about issues related to energy development in Alberta. At a typical EUB open house, landowners and residents interact directly with industry and government representatives. The event also provides an opportunity for the EUB to inform attendees about EUB processes, policies, roles, and responsibilities.

Maintaining relationships

The EUB believes that all stakeholders have the right to appropriate and timely information and opportunities for constructive and meaningful participation in decisions about the development of Alberta's resources. Along with the right to participate, all stakeholders have a responsibility to become informed, focus on common interests, and make the effort to seek and implement mutually satisfactory solutions.

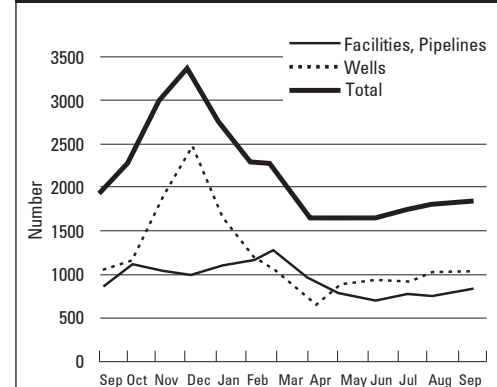
Any and all stakeholders are invited to express themselves through increased community involvement and to learn more about Alberta's resource development. The EUB will always be committed to building a regulatory framework that inspires public confidence. ❖

For ongoing EUB initiatives, the advice of stakeholders is imperative to ensuring that the public interest is being met.

Applications Summary

Facilities applications, 2002	September
Production facilities	.110
Pipelines	.744
Wells	1007
Total received	1861
Total approved	1788
Closed	.24
Withdrawn	.33

Facilities applications, Sept. 2001 - Sept. 2002



Resource applications, 2002

Resource applications, 2002	September
Equity (rateable take, common carrier, common purchaser, common processor, compulsory pooling, special spacing)	.50
Conservation (resources – oil, gas, and in situ bitumen; gas removal, enhanced recovery, water disposal, concurrent production, underground storage, commingled production, reserves)	.88
Depletion administration (good production practice, penalty relief)	.10
Corporate (transfer)	.2
Mining (coal and mineable oil sands)	.1
Total received	151
Total completed	204

Utilities applications, 2002

Utilities applications, 2002	September
Electric	.7
Gas	.4
Facilities	.11
Franchises and others	.10
Total received	.32
Total completed	.62

Corporate transfers and name changes applications, 2002

Corporate transfers and name changes applications, 2002	September
Well licence transfers	.828
Well licence name changes	.432
Pipeline licence transfers	.187
Facility licence transfers	.53
Total received	1500
Total completed	1598

This list is subject to change at any time, so please check the complete list of upcoming public hearings on the EUB Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/applications/hearings/hearings.pdf>. If you do not have Internet access, contact EUB Information Services at (403) 297-8190.

Upcoming Public Hearings

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1252461 1272754	ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Limited	Sour gas well and gas battery and pipelines Sinclair field
<i>Start Date: December 10 at Quality Inn and Conference Centre, 11201 100 Avenue, Grand Prairie</i>		
1270094	Battle River Rural Electrification Association Ltd.	Amalgamation of Battle River, Central Community, Fenn and Fort REAs as a single REA designated as Battle River REA
<i>Start Date: December 11 at Capri Convention Centre, 3310 - 50 Ave, Red Deer</i>		

Pending Decisions

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1058461 et al. 1078980	Anderson Exploration Ltd.	Approval to produce gas Section 43 review Applications 1069381 and 1069382 - Approval to produce gas
1086353	Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation	Section 42 review Applications 1039410 and 1047055 - Approval to produce gas
1073875	Anderson Exploration Ltd.	Review of the impact of continued gas production on bitumen recovery
1062688 et al. 1085736 et al. 1085793 1089982 et al. 1090128 et al. 1256085 1097090	AEC Oil and Gas (AEC) BP Canada Energy Company Petro-Canada Oil and Gas Paramount Resources Limited Rio Alto Exploration Ltd. PanCanadian Resources Corporation EUB Staff Submission Group	Approval to produce gas Approval to produce gas - Leismer field Shut-in gas production - Chard area Approval to produce gas Approval to produce gas Application to shut in gas - Christina Lake Potential impact of gas production on bitumen recovery
1274179	Bushmills Energy Corporation	Compulsory Pooling - Medicine Lodge Field
1254039 1254040	ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. ExxonMobil Resources Ltd.	Applications for sour gas wells - Crossfield field
1073941 et al. 1280774	Encana Corporation (formerly PanCanadian Resources)	Special gas well spacing, well licences and natural gas pipeline system - Centron and Strathmore fields (Applications No. 1249836, 1249838 1249839, 1249840, 1249842, 1249843, 1249845 1253483) Section 39 review request by J. Keer of Application No. 1268446
1086695 et al. 1277165 et al.	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	New and amended primary recovery schemes Applications for 55 well licences - Lindbergh Sector Cold Lake Oil Sands Area
1259219	Bonterra Energy Corp.	Sweet gas well licence application
1248262 1086164 et al.	Petrovera Resources Limited	Primary recovery scheme - Applications for 16 well licences - Lindbergh Sector Cold Lake Oil Sands Area
2000234	ATCO Electric Ltd., ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd., Northwestern Utilities Limited (ATCO Group)	Affiliate Transactions and Code of Conduct Proceeding; Part B: Code of Conduct
1251205	ATCO Electric Ltd.	2001-2002 Isolated Generating Units Re: Depreciation Adjustment
1244140	ESBI Alberta Ltd.	Article 24 Compensation Rainbow and Rossdale Generating Units
1269027	AUMA, IPPSA, SPPA, IPCCAA, REAs and AAMD&C	Request for review of UCO 2002-06

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Tell us how we're doing

What information did you find useful? What do we need more/less of? Please send your comments and suggestions to <acrosstheboard@eub.gov.ab.ca>.

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For Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) documents on geological research:

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Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Telephone: (780) 422-2767* Fax: (780) 422-1918
E-mail: <EUB.AGS-InfoSales@gov.ab.ca>
Web: <www.ags.gov.ab.ca>

Questions, Complaints, Problems?

Utilities: For information or to file a consumer utility complaint, contact us at:
EUB Utilities Branch,
10th floor, 10055-106 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2
Telephone: (780) 427-4901* Fax: (780) 427-6970
Complaints: (780) 427-4903*
E-mail: <utilities.concerns@eub.gov.ab.ca>

Oil and Gas: 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 EUB Field Centre.

EUB Field Centres (24-hour service)

Bonnyville (780) 826-5352*
Drayton Valley (780) 542-5182*
Grande Prairie (780) 538-5138*
Medicine Hat (403) 527-3385*
Midnapore (403) 297-8303*
Red Deer (403) 340-5454*
St. Albert (780) 460-3800*
Wainwright (780) 842-7570*

*To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the phone number, including area code, or press zero for a RITE operator.

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