

across

THE BOARD

October 2007

New EUB chairman takes action on security issues

Dr. William Tilleman, the EUB's new chairman, is moving quickly to prevent security problems like those that occurred during the 500 kV hearing held in Red Deer and Rimbey from being repeated in the future.

One of his first actions was to reorganize the EUB to include an Executive Manager of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, to ensure that the EUB is open and accountable to Albertans and that their personal privacy is respected, and an Executive Manager of Dispute Resolution, to ensure that mediation and arbitration services are available to help settle landowner disputes relating to the siting of energy and utility facilities in Alberta.

Tilleman also announced that the EUB's security unit was disbanded and that its employees were no longer with the EUB. He said he would make it a priority to work with the Alberta Solicitor General

and Public Security department to develop a new protocol for security and energy infrastructure security in the province.

The EUB will have a role in the security of the province's energy infrastructure and will continue to fulfill its obligation under the *Security Management Regulation* through an organizational change.

"These changes are the first major decisions I am making to reassure Albertans that the EUB has a strong regulatory framework that inspires landowner, industry, and public confidence," Tilleman said.

In addition, all future EUB hearings and proceedings will begin with the presiding EUB official introducing all EUB staff at the event, while public notices for all EUB proceedings will state that all material relating to the proceeding is subject to Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

(continued on page 2)

CERI 2007 Electricity Conference: Power and the Environment

October 22-23, 2007
Telus Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta

Session topics include:

- The real costs of electricity
- Regulating, de-regulating, and re-regulating impacts on the environment
- Alternative fuel costs and power prices
- Demand-side management

For more contact Julie Staple at (403) 220-2380 or jstaple@ceri.ca. You can also visit the CERI Web site at www.ceri.ca.

About the EUB

Our mission is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's energy resources and utilities services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. We regulate oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, and electric energy, pipelines, and transmission line development.

On the utilities side, we regulate investor-owned and certain municipally 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 two core functions: adjudication and regulation, information and knowledge.



EUB Chairman, Dr. William Tilleman

EUB high-tech air monitoring units sniff out leaks

An Alberta farmer working his field gets a whiff of rotten egg smell, a tell-tale sign that there's a sour gas leak nearby. While easy to detect, pinpointing the source of that leak is another matter.

For this reason, the EUB has a pair of state-of-the-art mobile command centres in its back pocket that can be dispatched at a moment's notice to sniff out the source of such leaks.

The EUB has employed mobile air monitoring units (AMUs) to track down leaks since the early 1990s. But last year the regulator rolled out two new trucks—affectionately known as “sniffer trucks”—as the latest weapons in its arsenal to detect leaks.

According to Al Duben, the EUB's air monitoring technician and resident high-tech guru, it took more than six months to outfit the vehicles, which are modified Ford F-250 three-quarter ton trucks converted to four-wheel drive. Each one of the vehicles—one based at the EUB's Midnapore Field Centre and the other in Drayton Valley—is worth around \$400 000.

The AMUs are generally deployed

- when a complaint is received regarding off-lease emissions of hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds, such as methane, benzenes, and numerous other compounds associated with oil and gas development,

- in response to an incident such as a blowout, a leak, or another type of critical event,
- during routine inspections of oil and gas facilities, and
- as part of nonroutine inspections, usually for something out of the ordinary.

The mobile units are bristling with high-tech goodies such as air monitoring equipment, a variety of communications devices, wind speed and direction monitoring equipment, 3-D topographic mapping software, and advanced video recording equipment.

They have many advantages over their predecessors. Perhaps the most important feature of the new trucks is the Forward Looking Infrared Camera (FLIR), which is the same technology used in military aircraft. Duben says that this device is a sure-fire method of detecting gas leaks. For example, recently the camera detected a tiny methane leak at an energy facility in central Alberta that had stumped industry and the EUB alike since 2001.

Also, the updated equipment allows the operator to send back data to the field centre in real time, and to transmit images quicker than ever before. (Once a high-speed wireless system is available province-wide, the trucks will transmit images and streaming video in real time.)

“During a blowout a couple of years ago, I had to drive back an hour to be able to send out photos and other information,” Duben says. “That isn't the case anymore.”

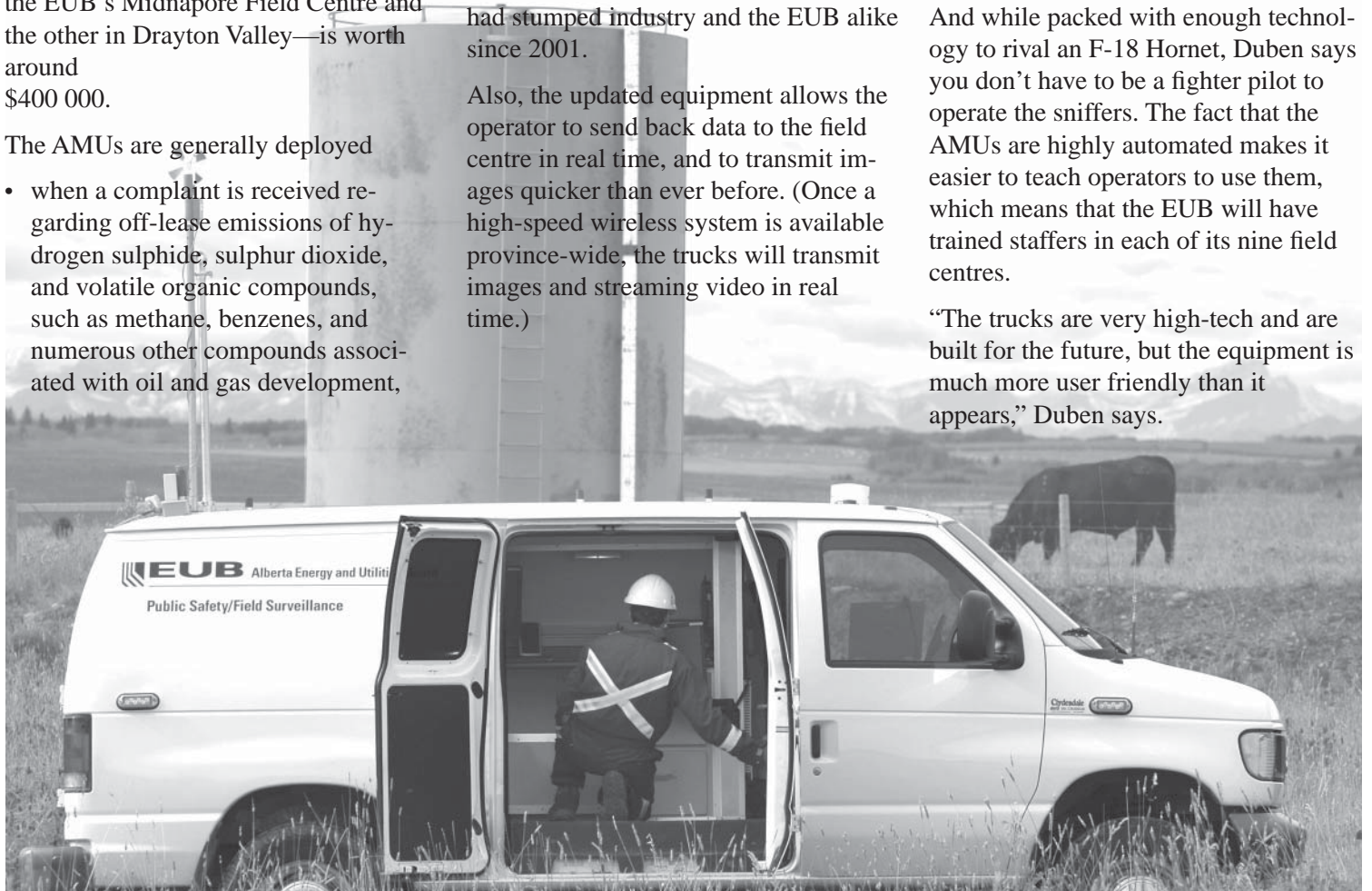
Another enhanced feature is a 3-D topographic mapping system for the whole of Alberta. Duben says that he can pull up a 3-D map of any area of the province, analyze it, and choose the best spot to place the vehicle to pick up air readings.

Ergonomic improvements make the new mobile units more comfortable—more like an office on wheels, Duben says—which allows the operators to stay on the job for longer periods of time.

One of the main features that distinguish the AMUs from other air monitors is that they run the instrumentation off of a sine wave power inverter rather than a gasoline-fuelled generator. This means that the onboard equipment is cheaper to run and produces no emissions, pollutants, or noise.

And while packed with enough technology to rival an F-18 Hornet, Duben says you don't have to be a fighter pilot to operate the sniffers. The fact that the AMUs are highly automated makes it easier to teach operators to use them, which means that the EUB will have trained staffers in each of its nine field centres.

“The trucks are very high-tech and are built for the future, but the equipment is much more user friendly than it appears,” Duben says.



■ ■ ■ Upcoming Public Hearings

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1499025 1504928 1504963	Burlington Resources Canada Limited	Application for a licences to drill three Level 2 critical wells (1499025, 1504928 & 1504963) Tomahawk Field
Start date: September 5, Causeway Bay Westwinds, 4225-50 Street, Drayton Valley, AB		
1514422	EUB Proceeding	Application for review of Bears paw Petroleum Ltd. Complaint re Enforcement
Start date: September 11, West Hall, EUB Offices, 640 - 5 ave SW, Calgary, AB, 9 a.m.		
1428238	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Application to Amend Primary Recovery Scheme Approval No. 6280 - Cold Lake Oil Sands Area
Start date: September 11, Lakeland Inn, 5411-55 Street, Cold Lake, AB		
1480869 1486164	Highpine Oil & Gas Limited	Application for two critical wells - Pembina Field
Start date: September 17, Causeway Bay Westwinds, 4225-50 Street, Drayton Valley, AB		
1487188 1499076 1500699	Duvernay Oil Corporation	Application for a gas well, gas battery and pipeline - Edson Area
Start date: September 18, Edson & District Recreation Complex, #1 Golf Avenue Edson, AB		
1498479 1483571	Shell Canada Ltd.	Application for a licence to drill a vertical sour gas well and construct two pipelines - Waterton Field
Start date: September 18, Pincher Creek Community Hall, 287 Canyon Drive, Pincher Creek, AB		
1486523 1498999	Apache Canada Ltd.	Application for two coalbed methane wells and three natural gas pipelines - Bashaw Field
Start date: September 19, Ponoka Legion, 3911 Highway 2A, Ponoka, AB		
1483550 1483444 1507485	Anderson Energy Ltd.	Application for two vertical wells and a pipeline - Gilby Field
Start date: September 25, Chateau Suites, #1, 5100 Lakeshore Drive, Sylvan Lake, AB		
1456596 1477294 1514341	Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., Galleon Energy Inc., Murphy Oil Canada & Duvernay Oil Corp.	Applications to Produce Gas from the Oil Sands Strata within the Bluesky Sand in the Peace River Area
Start date: October 2, Govier Hall, EUB Office, 640 5 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB		
1481229	Canetic Resources Inc.	Application for a Level 3 critical well - Pembina Field
Start date: October 2, Causeway Bay Westwinds, 4225-50 Street, Drayton Valley, AB		
1507039	Talisman Energy Inc.	To enlarge Turner Valley Unit No. 5 (TVU 5) to include legal subdivisions.
Start date: October 4, TBD		

■ ■ ■ Pending Decisions

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1508450 1508455	EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.	Inter-Affiliate Code of Conduct
1485740	ATCO Electric Ltd.	2007 - 2008 General Tariff Application

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For Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) documents on geological research, contact

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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
Fax: (780) 427-6970
Complaints: (780) 427-4903*
E-mail: <utilities.concerns@eub.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*
Fort McMurray	(780) 743-7214*
High Level	(780) 926-5399*
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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