



across the board

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Synergy conference brings people and ideas together

Cooperation and understanding were qualities demonstrated by industry, community, and government representatives recently at the *Synergy in Motion* conference held in Edmonton February 6 to 8 by Synergy Alberta. Synergy Alberta provides a variety of information, services, and tools to support the work of local community groups.

“Synergy is about creating open lines of communication,” said Deborah Eastlick, EUB Community Relations Advisor Specialist and a *Synergy in Motion* organizer. “The conference allowed industry, communities, government, and the EUB to talk openly about their views on synergy and, specifically, how everyone can best use the new office to its full potential.”

For the third time since the inception and implementation of the synergy concept in Alberta, representatives from all constituencies met to discuss issues and opportunities in the province related to synergy initiatives.

“Synergy is a process and an outcome,” she added. She explains synergy as a way for community groups, industry, and government to all work together and share ideas.

This year’s conference introduced the concept of a Synergy Alberta office, expected to start up in Calgary in spring 2005. Five teams of Synergy Alberta—Resources, Mutual Understanding and Skills Transfer, Facilitation, Information Action, and Communication—have been developing ideas for the office.



“Synergy is about strength in numbers. The more people who can voice their concerns together, the louder their voices are. With a synergy group, many people can hear your point of view.”

Each team took on specific responsibilities: setting up the structure for the office and deciding how best the office can communicate and make resources available to stakeholders across the province, as well as meet the needs outlined by Alberta’s existing and new synergy groups.

“Synergy Alberta offers the ability to establish a support system for synergy groups, instead of the groups reinventing the wheel,” said Elizabeth McKellar, also an EUB Community Relations Advisor and conference organizer.

McKellar and Eastlick said that this year’s conference was a huge success, drawing more than 200 participants. Both the participants and organizers left feeling confident about synergy and its role in Alberta.

The teams made presentations at the conference about their recommendations and thoughts on their individual topics and received feedback from the participants.

“Communication is really important when there are different perspectives about the use of land resources,” said Mike Bruni, EUB Energy Team manager and closing speaker at the conference. “It is the most important element of a resolution.”

Bruni said the *Synergy in Motion* conference was an important step in

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Effective Public Involvement Course

The Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS) and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) are pleased to announce that a new training program on effective public involvement will be held this spring. This skills-based course will prepare students to conduct a comprehensive public involvement program. Landmen, job site supervisors, seismic and operations managers, and construction coordinators, as well as others who have direct contact with local communities, will be interested.

PITS Calgary Training Centre April 25-26, 2005
PITS Nisku Training Centre May 5-6, 2005

For information and registration:
 1 (800) 667-5557 or (403) 250-9606

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, 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 two core functions: adjudication and regulation, information and knowledge.

For Your Information...

Recent EUB publications

News Releases

March 10: NR 2005-05: EUB Staff Committee Seeks Stakeholder Input on Proposed Changes to the EUB's Subsurface Well-spacing Applications Process

March 7: NR2005-04: EUB and NEB Release Alberta Conventional Gas Potential Report

March 3: NR 2005-03: EUB Sets Date for Final Hearing on Bitumen Conservation

January 13: NR 2005-02: Acclaim Energy Well Secured: EUB Investigation Immediately Begins

January 10: NR 2005-01: Acclaim Energy Well Flow Stopped; Operations Underway to Secure Well

Publications

March 9: EUB/NEB Report 2005-A: Alberta's Ultimate Potential for Conventional Natural Gas

February 1: Directive 017: Measurement Requirements for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations

January 26: Directive 016: Utility Regulatory Audits and Reviews

January 19: Directive 014: Requirements for Annual Financial and Operating Reporting by Electric Utilities

Bulletins

March 10: Bulletin 2005-08: Consultation Regarding Proposed Changes to Reservoir-Related Well Spacing Regulations, Application Requirements, and Application Review Process

February 14: Bulletin 2005-07: Invitation for Comment: Technical Report on Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in Waste

February 2: Bulletin 2005-06: 2005 Orphan Levy

February 1: Bulletin 2005-05: Directive 017: Measurement Requirements for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations

January 27: Bulletin 2005-04: Shallow Well Operations

January 26: Bulletin 2005-03: Utility Regulatory Audits and Reviews

January 19: Bulletin 2005-02: Requirements for Reporting by Electric Utilities

January 18: Bulletin 2005-01: Data Collection Program for Flaring and Venting Associated with Well Cleanup and Testing Operations—February 7 to March 11, 2005

Decisions

March 8: Decision 2005-018: Langdon Waterworks Limited Interim Rate Request

March 8: Decision 2005-017: Bears paw Petroleum Ltd. Application for Natural Gas Pipelines

March 4: Decision 2005-015: Alberta Electric System Operator - 2005/2006 General Tariff Application, 2005 Own Costs

February 22: Decision 2005-013: ATCO Electric Ltd. ATCO Gas (Division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.) ATCO Pipelines (Division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.) Inter-Affiliate Code of Conduct Compliance Plans

February 16: Decision 2005-011: AltaLink Management Ltd. Review and Variance of Decision 2003-061 Regarding the Disallowance of Income Tax and Large Corporation Tax Provisions for OTPPB TEP Inc. in AltaLink's Revenue Requirement for Fiscal Years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 and the Associated Equity Ratio Adjustment

February 15: Decision 2005-010: Provident Energy Ltd. Applications for Licences for a Well and Battery, Lloydminster Field

February 15: Decision 2005-009: Provident Energy Ltd. Application for a Change in Pool Designation Gilby Field

February 15: Decision 2005-008: Talisman Energy Canada Enlargement of Turner Valley Unit No. 3 Turner Valley Field

February 15: Decision 2005-012: Apache Canada Ltd. Applications for Special Well Spacing for Licences to Drill Five Natural Gas Wells and to Construct and Operate Five Natural Gas Pipelines

February 8: Decision 2005-006: Review of Utility Cost Order 2003-13 Congestion Management

February 1: Decision 2005-004: EPCOR Energy Alberta Inc. Recovery of Retail Adjustment to Market Charges

February 1: Decision 2005-007: FortisAlberta Inc. 2005 Distribution Tariff Negotiation Permission to Participate in Negotiation

January 31: Decision 2005-005: Alberta Electric System Operator 2004 General Tariff Application – Phase I

January 25: Decision 2005-003: Langdon Waterworks Limited Request for Approval to Commence a Negotiated Settlement

January 17: Decision 2005-002: FortisAlberta Inc. Code of Conduct

Synergy conference brings people and ideas together

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opening up the lines of communication among industry, the community, and government.

Participants representing all parties at the conference echoed Bruni's sentiments.

"Synergy is a great way for industry to work together with the communities," said Alexandra Frison, public affairs advisor for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

"The conference is a great vehicle and tool for industry to get together with the local communities to talk positively in an open forum to discuss issues and work together," according to Robert Deresh, a member of the Lakeland Industry and Community Association. He has attended all past conferences and said that the positive progression synergy has made in the province is evident to him. "It's exceeding people's expectations," he said. "New groups, new industry, and new people are becoming aware of synergy through events like this."

"Synergy is about strength in numbers," Deresh added. "The more people who can voice their concerns together, the louder their voices are. With a synergy group, many people can hear your point of view."

For now, the Synergy Alberta teams will wrap up their work towards setting up the new office. A newsletter outlining the conference proceedings, team recommendations, and a call for Synergy Alberta directors will be out before the end of March. Once the directors are selected, they will in turn send out a call for an executive manager. Meanwhile, the synergy Web site <http://www.synergyalberta.ca> will continue to be the first source of information on developments as they happen: appointments of staff for the office, as well as a board of directors for later this year. ❖

Ensuring fairness through EUB hearings

The EUB holds very few public hearings with respect to oil and gas matters each year: generally only 15 to 20 out of the tens of thousands of applications received. This suggests that industry's public consultation programs and the EUB's Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) program are working, although there will likely always be a need for some hearings—public forums where those who may be directly and adversely affected by a proposed project can bring forward their evidence to impartial decision makers.

When a public consultation program or ADR does not resolve the concerns of a person who may be directly and adversely affected by a proposed project, that person can trigger a hearing. Any unresolved matter or objection may proceed to a hearing.

What is an EUB hearing?

An EUB hearing is a public forum in which all parties that may be directly affected by a proposed project may participate. Any party that the EUB considers to be potentially directly and adversely affected by an application can trigger a hearing. Subsequently parties that are interested in the application and that can contribute to the proceeding are usually able to intervene. An intervener is defined as a person, a group of persons, an association, or a company other than the applicant that files a submission with the EUB in respect of a proceeding.

If the EUB decides that it is necessary to hold a hearing to consider an application, it issues a notice of hearing directly to all persons and organizations potentially directly and adversely affected by the application to inform them of the hearing and allow them to file their submissions with the EUB. A hearing may be oral or written, at the choice of the EUB. Hearings are sometimes preceded by prehearing meetings, which may be held to finalize logistical details, such as the proposed date, time, and place of the hearing, arrange for the exchange of exhibits or

prepared testimony, and settle any other matters that may aid the proceedings.

Hearings meet the fairness requirement by providing parties with the opportunity to be heard. In order to participate in a hearing, an intervener must file a written submission, called an intervention, with the Board. Section 23 of the EUB's *Rules of Practice* explains what a submission must contain. A copy of the submission must also be given to each party participating in the proceeding.

If an oral hearing is held, the general public may attend to observe without participating.

“An EUB hearing is a public forum in which all parties that may be directly affected by a proposed project may participate.”

What happens at a hearing?

A panel, usually consisting of three Board Members, conducts the hearing. At the hearing, first the applicant explains its proposed project to the panel, and then the interveners state their support or opposition to the project in detail. Intervenors may cross-examine the applicant and present their own case. The applicant may then cross-examine intervenors, and intervenors may cross-examine each other. EUB staff and the Board panel itself may also ask questions. All participants submit their final arguments to the panel. Following final argument, the chair of the panel announces that the hearing is completed and closed to any further evidence.

Within 90 days of the close of the hearing, a decision report is written, distributed to all the participants, and made available to the public on the EUB Web site.

Who pays?

Participants in oil and gas hearings that are determined by the EUB to be “local” intervenors may be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable costs resulting from their participation in a proceeding before the EUB. Generally, the applicant for the proposed project is responsible for the payment of such local intervener cost awards.

If potential intervenors are unsure whether they qualify as local intervenors, they may request that the EUB make an advance determination of local intervener status.

For further information, see

- *Guide 29: Energy and Utility Development Applications and the Hearing Process*, regarding energy and utility development applications and the hearing process
- *Guide 31A: Guidelines for Energy Cost Claims*, or contact the EUB Law Branch at (403) 297-7029* regarding local intervenors' cost awards.

All EUB guides are available on the EUB's Web site at www.eub.gov.ab.ca or from

EUB Information Services
640 - 5 Avenue SW, Main Floor
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4
Telephone: (403) 297-8311*

* To call these numbers toll free, dial 310-0000.

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
1366746	Intrepid Energy Corporation	Application for a well licence - Sturgeon Lake South Field
Start date: March 16, Best Western, 10745 - 117 Avenue, Grande Prairie		
1365322	EnCana Corporation	Review Hearing - Filing of Thermocouple Data - Decision 2003-023 - Chard Area/Leismer Field
Start date: March 22, Metropolitan Centre - 333-4th Avenue SW, Calgary		
1339435	Omers Energy Inc.	Application for a well licence, pipeline and battery - Warwick Field
1341408		
1385507		
Start date: March 31, Brunswick Motor Inn, 4807 - 51 Street, Vermillion		
1369362	Shell Canada Limited	Application for a critical well licence and associated pipeline and facilities - Waterton Field
1358995		
Start date: April 5, Heritage Inn, 919 Waterton Avenue, Highway 6, Pincher Creek		
1081995	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Application for a Primary Recovery Scheme
1081996		
1082375		
Start date: April 5, Neighbourhood Inn, 5011 - 66 Street, Bonnyville		
1363012	Alberta Electric System Operator	2005 General Tariff Application/2006 General Tariff Application
Start date: April 11, Edmonton EUB Offices, 10055 - 106 Street, 12th Floor, Edmonton		
1347899	BA Energy Inc.	Strathcona County Application for Approval to Construct and Operate a Heavy Oil Upgrader in Strathcona County
Start date: April 12, Best Western Hotel, 10115 - 88th Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan		
1386951	Anadarko Canada Corporation	Review Hearing of well licence 0308210
Start date: April 14, Town of Beaverlodge Community Centre, 1020 - 4th Avenue, Beaverlodge		
1346815	Compton Petroleum Corporation	Application for a Well Licence - Crossfield Field
Start date: April 19, Best Western Hospitality Inn, 135 Southland Drive SE, Calgary		

Pending decisions

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1348061	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.	Application for a natural gas pipeline
1360900	Celtic Exploration Ltd.	Application for a common carrier and common processor - Otter Field
1366191	Sawtooth International Resources Inc.	Application for compulsory pooling - Redwater Field
1360426	ConocoPhillips Canada Resources	Application for a well licence - Westeros South Field
1357009	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Application for well licences to drill 9 crude bitumen wells and approved to construct and operate 4 multiwell crude bitumen batteries - Lloydminster area
1357010		
1357011		
1357012		
1366460		
1366462		
1366464		
1366465		
1276857	Compton Petroleum Corporation	Applications for well licences to drill six critical sour natural gas wells, application for special well spacing and an application for production facilities, Okotoks Field, Southeast Calgary Area
1276858		
1276859		
1276860		
1307759		
1307760		
1278265		
1310351		
1357068	Anadarko Canada Corporation	Application for a battery and associated pipelines
1356040	Shell Canada Limited	Section 39 review request on ERCB Decision D 83-22 on Moose Mountain production facility

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Tell us how we're doing

Please send your comments and suggestions to <acrosstheboard@gov.ab.ca>.

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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.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*
Fort McMurray	(780) 743-7214*
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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