

2017 Energy Exploration Advisory Committee (EEAC) Annual Report

Background of the EEAC

- The mandate of the EEAC is to provide landowner and resident feedback on oil and gas exploration, extraction and pipelines in the community to the office of the Energy Exploration office and Council.
- The Committee was formed in 2003 at the request of landowners in response to increased community conflict over energy developments. They developed the Strathcona County Protocol for Seismic Surveying, Drilling, Construction and Operation of Oil and Gas Facilities (a list of requirements and requests of the oil and gas industry and landowner resources). The EEAC is proactive in responding to emerging issues with education and Protocol updates.
- Recently new development has been primarily in the Strathcona Industrial Area and in the northern part of the County: new wells north of Highway 15 and pipelines north of Highway 16.
- The authority for oil and gas development in Alberta lies primarily with the provincial government with the exception of Strathcona County roads, County-owned lands and other infrastructure. All other changes to energy proposals are municipal requests of industry that are implemented as a result of relationship building with that sector.

2017 EEAC accomplishments

- Reviewed past AAMD&C and AUMA resolutions to ascertain if any recommendations should be reviewed or made on abandoned wells and/or reclamation. After review this was referred to the Governance Committee.
- Met with the Oil and Gas Energy Extraction and Transportation Committee (OGEETC - a Committee inclusive of the Towns of Bruderheim and Lamont and County of Lamont) to draft and obtain agreement on common statement/standards for the oil and gas industry in all four municipalities. The statements were agreed to and common approaches for their implementation are complete. The County of Lamont's implementation is pending completion of their statutory documents.
- Assisted in the 2017 Landowner Workshop. This previously annual workshop will now be held every two years.
- Conducted research and presented on orphan wells.
- Provided information for the municipality of Bruderheim on water and water wells in relation to a hydraulic well fracturing project.
- Approved revisions to the Strathcona County Protocol regarding pipeline planning and land fragmentation.
- Followed the Redwater Energy insolvency case and assessed for impacts to local landowners. Landowners were provided further information via the Liaison office and her interaction with the Alberta Surface Rights Board.
- Recommended advertising ideas for fall Boards and Committees recruitment.
- Provided a report on Lexin Resources insolvency. There were no impacts in Strathcona County.

- Provided a Board Members Handbook (from Northern Alberta Development Council) as a resource for the EEAC and the Legislative and Legal Department for other Committees.
- Attended an orientation by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on the AER website resources and information.
- Received updates on current and emerging issues and in turn informed the community.

2018 EEAC Objectives

- Review and update the Strathcona County Protocol as needed.
Strategic Plan:
Governance – Increase public involvement and communication with the community on issues affecting the County's future.
Environment – Minimize impacts on the community and incorporate environmental considerations.
Social – Provide climate of safety for individuals and neighborhoods.
- Assist with the promotion and coordination of the 2018 Landowner Oil and Gas Information Workshop.
Strategic Plan:
Governance – Increase public involvement and communication with the community on issues affecting the County's future/safety.
- Meet with OGEETC and review common oil and gas development concerns and issues with the aim of ensuring landowner and municipal concerns are addressed similarly across municipalities.
Strategic Plan:
Governance – Develop strong relationships with neighbouring municipalities.
- Build relationships with other communities or municipalities and agencies (i.e. Agriculture Service Board; provincial services, etc.) with the aim of sharing information on oil and gas.
Strategic Plan:
Governance – Develop strong relationships with neighbouring municipalities.
- Review landowner oil and gas related issues/needs and research and recommend solutions where appropriate.
Strategic Plan:
Governance – Increase public involvement and communication with the community on issues affecting the County's future/safety.
Social – Provide climate of safety for individuals and neighborhoods.