

2016 Energy Exploration Advisory Committee Annual Report

Changes to the Energy Exploration Committee (EEC):

- Added an additional member for 2016. The additional member will be added with the fall recruitment for a total of 6 public members.
- The Committee web page is now online.

Expected Work for the Committee in 2016 (as outlined in the 2015 Annual Report)

1. Revision of the Strathcona County Protocol to address new issues.
2. Review of the Orphan Wells situation.
3. Interaction with other committees within Strathcona County.
4. Attendance and assistance with the Oil and Gas Landowner Workshop at Heartland Hall.
5. Interaction with other Energy Committees in the province.

2016 Energy Exploration Committee activities:

- Incorporated the Strathcona County Protocol revisions including:
 - Addition of requirements and information on land spray of drilling mud from large pipeline projects. Industry requirements are noted in the Protocol and landowners have both soil and landowner agreement considerations for reference.
 - Recommended land fragmentation statement addition to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) "Pipeline planning should reduce land fragmentation and cross land parcels along section or quarter section lines or follow existing surface disturbances or other linear infrastructure."
- Included information on Orphan Wells in the Oil and Gas Landowner Workshop. This included oil and gas companies in receivership, and/or not making annual lease payments, and sites that fall under the Orphan Well Program. Updates on companies in receivership were provided to the Committee throughout the year, in particular the Redwater Energy case.
- Presented to the Strathcona County Agricultural Service Board in June. Areas of common interest were discussed, in particular the concerns over drilling mud spraying on agriculture lands.
- Attended the Oil and Gas Landowner Workshop hosted by Strathcona County and Lamont County on March 3, 2016 at Heartland Hall. Information on how surface rights work, pros and cons of land documents, reclamation at creeks and wetlands, and issues with bankrupt companies (funding, clean-up and current cases) were covered. The Committee prepared questions for the speakers in advance. Participant evaluations indicate a desire for an annual event. It was clear that the economy is impacting landowners with increasing concern expressed on the subject of bankruptcy/receivership situations.
- Expanded communication and interaction with other groups within and bordering the County.
 - April 20 Neil Shelley from the AIHA presented to the Committee.
 - Contacted the Wetaskiwin Synergy Initiative and Life in the Heartland.
 - In July the EEC met with the Oil and Gas Energy Extraction and Transportation Committee (OGEETC). This Committee is comprised of representatives from Lamont County, Town of Lamont and Bruderheim. Agenda items included: identification of processes for handling of energy proposals by each municipality; municipal requirements of industry and identification of areas for common

approaches to energy development; and discussion of current issues. As a result administration from Lamont and Strathcona Counties are drafting statements for consistent approaches for energy development (i.e. reduction of land fragmentation) to be included in municipal documents. A draft for Committee discussion will be available in November. The goal is to have neighboring local authorities take a consistent approach and provide that consistency for landowners and industry living or working in those municipalities.

- Of note is the bench-marks established in energy development by Strathcona County and the resulting resources and consultation provided to other cities, towns and counties.

Expected Committee work in 2017

- Finalize Statements for Common Approaches to Energy Development document with OGEETC.
- Continue to monitor and provide resources on wellsites in receivership and Orphan wells.
- Assist with the Oil and Gas Landowner Workshop
- Continue to interact with other committees and associations in Strathcona County and surrounding areas.
- Revise Strathcona County Protocol as required to address new issues.