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Fair Play

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A SPOG COMMUNITY HANDBOOK FOR
WORKING WITH THE OIL AND GAS
INDUSTRY

FAIR PLAY

Originally Compiled by

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*In cooperation with residents of Eagle Valley
September, 1990*

Revisions by

Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG)
Community Affairs Working Group

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i. FOREWORD

We live in the rural Alberta community of Eagle Valley. For many years, there has been extensive oil and gas development here. Several years ago, an important discovery of “sour” gas, or gas containing hydrogen sulphide, was made in our area. This new find has meant the drilling of sour gas wells close to our homes and farming operations and the construction of major processing and pipelining facilities.

As you may know, hydrogen sulphide can be very toxic when released to the atmosphere. Because of this, companies are required to prepare detailed emergency response or evacuation plans (ERPs) to ensure the safety of residents living in the area.

We were worried about the drilling from the beginning. But, a hydrogen sulphide release at one of the sour gas wells in our area made us even more aware. We realized that no matter what care is taken, accidents can happen. Because of this sour gas incident, we felt we had to organize and work with the companies that are active in our area.

This handbook was initiated in order to explain some of the activities we have undertaken over the past years and to share what we have learned. Energy companies and other communities facing sour gas development, or any other types of development for that matter, should have the opportunity to hear what we have to say and to use what they can.

There are other booklets and manuals that contain some of the same points, but we feel that this one is unique in that it comes from the community itself and is based on our direct experience.

Our attitude toward oil and gas development is that you probably will not be able to stop progress, but through resident action and cooperation you maybe able to change the relationship between the company(s) and the community. We feel we have been successful in achieving some coordination between the companies and landowners in this area. The dialogue is less defensive now and the community knows it can make a difference.

ii PASSING THE TORCH

Since the original booklet was published, a multi-stakeholder group has been created in this area, which embraces the spirit and principles contained in the following pages. The Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG) has developed into an umbrella organization which brings the community and companies together to share information and ideas, to take action on issues that need to be addressed and to improve the capability to respond to emergencies in a cooperative and effective manner.

It was with great pride and enthusiasm that we agreed to the offer of SPOG's Community Affairs Working Group to revise and update our original 1990 publication of FairPlay. They have succeeded in maintaining the key messages we wanted to communicate, while at the same time providing current information and contacts.

Good luck and good reading!

SIGNED:

BUD AND PAULINE BIRD

JACK AND BEVERLEY MACKLIN

LYLE AND SHARON ROTH

iii. INTRODUCING THE SUNDRE PETROLEUM OPERATORS GROUP

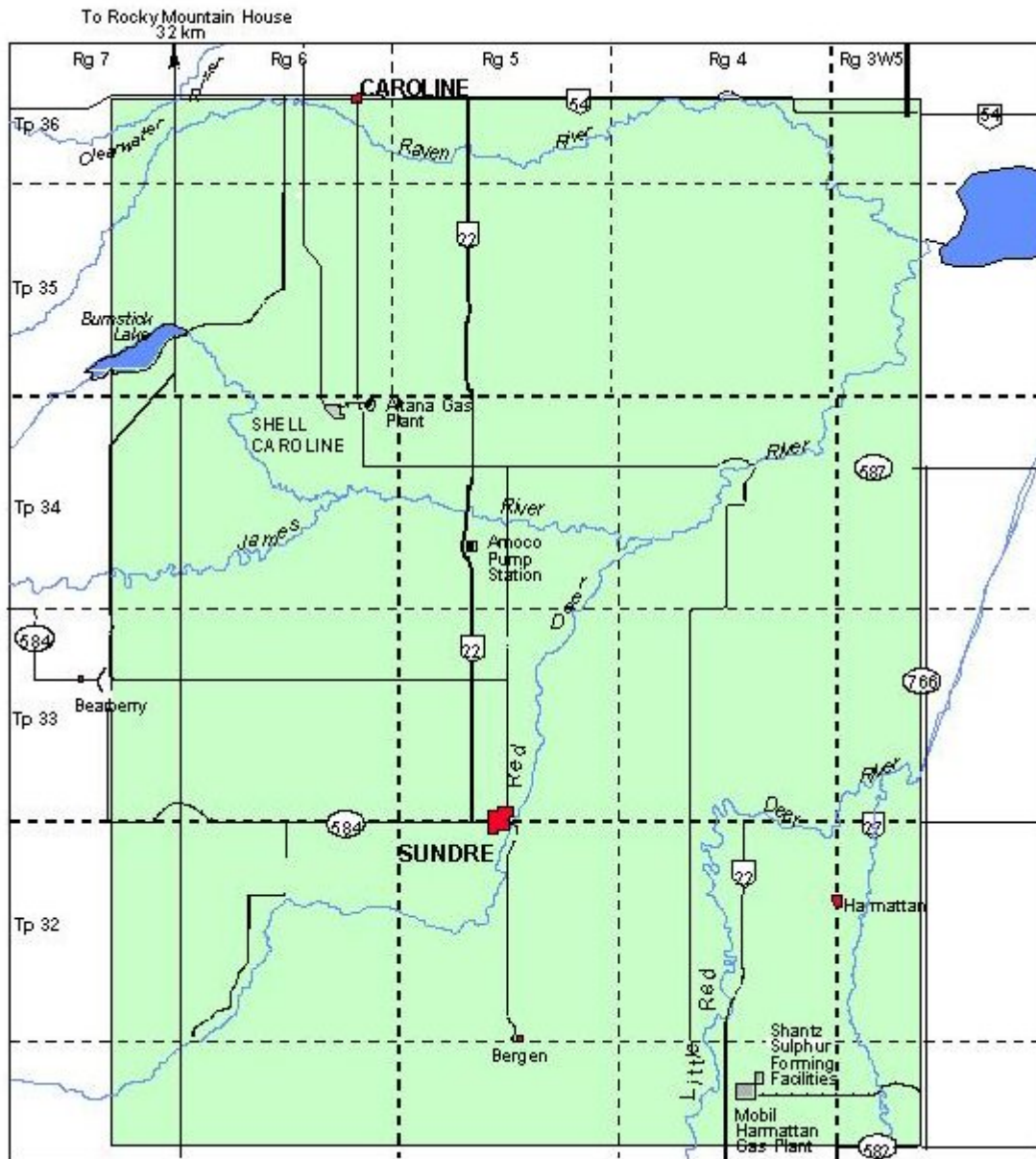
SPOG is the Sundre Petroleum Operators Group. It was established in December 1992 by Amoco, Mobil and Shell who, at the time, were the largest operators in the area. The Group was a cooperative industry effort to accommodate the community's desire for coordinated emergency response program. Since then, SPOG has grown to over 30 companies, and meets to collectively and proactively identify and respond to issues relating to the oil and gas industry.

The SPOG VISION:

*“a long term relationship
based on mutual trust, honesty and respect,
by way of sharing pertinent information
and resolving issues to benefit all stakeholders”*

SPOG has four working committees with clear mandates:

1. Community Affairs – promote communication through cooperative action. This includes sub-committees working on pertinent and current issues, an annual neighbours' day, survey information, the SPOG website, and a newsletter outlining SPOG activities and distributed four times a year. The New Development sub-committee ensures that new or existing operations in the area are aware of the Committee's performance measures. These performance measures are expectations of the Community that are in concert with regulations but go beyond accepted practices.
2. Environment – ensure an awareness of environmental impacts and identify opportunities for minimizing these; implement environmental programs for natural resource sustainability. The group looks at such things as new technologies, monitoring and is also responsible for the Caroline Livestock Study.
3. Mutual Aid – protect public safety, and maintain a network that allows for effective response to events that may impact the public, environment or industry. The Committee tracks all concerns and complaints registered through the 1-800 number.



The *SPOG* area incorporates these boundaries:

- North: Highway 54 (Caroline/Innisfail)
- South: Highway 582 (Elkton Road)
- East: Highway 766
- West: Range 7/8 Split (west of Burnstick Lake/Bearberry Area)

iv. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPOG gratefully acknowledges:

- the residents of Eagle Valley for their participation in the first edition of Fair Play, and for entrusting its keeping to SPOG ;
- the men and women of the energy companies, the government agencies and particularly the community, whose commitment to the principles of 'FAIR PLAY' have endured through the Sundre Petroleum Operators' Group.

**SPOG 24 hour Emergency Response Number
1-800-567-0818**

DEDICATION

This edition of FairPlay is dedicated to Frank Mink,
EUB Board Member and Friend
JULY 23, 1941 – APRIL 26, 2000

(photo)

In April of 2000, SPOG lost one of its most enthusiastic supporters when Frank Mink died of cancer at the age of 58. Many Albertans in industry and the public will remember Frank for his role with the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB). By his own account, Frank's most note-worthy accomplishment was his long term interest in innovative problem-solving, including public involvement guidelines, community-industry groups, landowner-industry relations and the use of alternative dispute resolution. Frank generously offered encouragement to SPOG as we stretched our wings and reached out to the community. On behalf of the Energy & Utilities Board, Frank wrote of SPOG "we applaud the motivation and accomplishments of the Sundre Petroleum Operators' Group. We will continue to monitor their progress as they set standards for the oil and gas industry working in Alberta communities." He will be greatly missed.

1. Talk to your Neighbours and Work Together

- At the first contact of the company (or first rumour), landholders should ask the company to organize a meeting of their neighbours to discuss how the pipeline/wellsite will affect everyone. The SPOG office is available for assistance.
- When landowners hear of a development (eg. pipeline, gas plant, etc.), they should get together to discuss the impact, get the information and be collectively ready when the project people come to see them so that individual landowners don't sign up for something they may regret later. This should be done prior to any work being done.
- Although Alberta Energy & Utilities Board (EUB) has regulated setbacks from sour gas facilities, neighbours should also work with the company to influence the location of the facility in relation to homes, buildings, operations, etc.
- You may have neighbours who either have worked in the oilpatch or have hands-on experience dealing with previous facilities, and can give you valuable advice.
- When signing agreements, landholders should check with each other to see what they should settle for (dollars and conditions) – talking together can avoid bad feelings toward each other and the company. For example, one landholder may feel that s/he did not get a fair deal, compared to another.
- There is strength in numbers. A community has more influence on decisions that affect them if the residents are organized as a group. The SPOG New Development Committee is designed to promote the exchange of ideas with industry on reasonable expectations of the community. Residents impacted by a proposed development may volunteer to sit on this committee.
- The AEUB frequently delays the approval process on energy facilities until community residents have had time to hold meetings and express their concerns to the company. If there are still outstanding issues, the affected residents can call for an AEUB Hearing (Section 29, Energy Resources Conservation Act). This route should be initiated only as a last resort, and certain steps must be followed. Other processes, such as the AEUB's Appropriate Dispute Resolution System, should be explored.
- Organizational meetings, with just community residents present, are a good idea before you meet with the company. But don't hold meetings without good reason. People are too busy.
- By holding organization meetings, the community can review and agree to performance measures, or present their expectations of the company for that particular project, and you can allow residents who are particularly upset to air their views.

- It may take several meetings before all the concerns are sorted out, all questions raised and performance measures and expectations are agreed to. A spokesperson should then be chosen to present the community ideas reasonably at a meeting with the company. The SPOG New Development Committee can assist this process.
- A neighbour may have a problem with an existing or proposed facility that is on another landholder's property. Neighbours should be sure to make their concerns known to the landholder, as well as to the company.
- It's difficult to keep a group of residents interested over time, if there aren't any issues – but it is important to stay organized and attentive to the way facilities are being operated in the area. Resident groups should also monitor future developments that may be proposed for the area. There are many opportunities to volunteer with SPOG on subcommittees that are dealing with current issues that arise.

2. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

- The company representatives usually approach the landholder and state what they are going to do; but the landholder, in turn, should negotiate what s/he feels is acceptable.
- The landholder should try to think of everything s/he wants to have included in the agreement and make sure all items are written into the contract – get promises in writing.
- Residents shouldn't give up asking their questions - you deserve a satisfactory answer!
- It is important to check on statements that the company representative makes; for example, if s/he says that all of your neighbours have signed, ask to be shown the signed agreements.
- If a landholder is approached for access to conduct seismic work on his or her land, s/he should be knowledgeable about other deals that have been made in the area and refuse to settle for less.
- Working as an organized group can ensure consistency in the settlements.
- Residents should try to deal with the company landman rather than contractors or a third party – this ensures that decisions are made on the spot.
- Sometimes it is more mutually beneficial to have any damage repair done by landholder. This will ensure that the job is done to the landholder's satisfaction.
- If dealing with the company's field people over a problem does not lead to a successful conclusion, residents should contact the head office and/or log a complaint through the SPOG Office.
- Landowners are not obligated to let seismic companies go on their land.
- A landholder should feel free to hold off signing a surface lease agreement until s/he can become better informed, consult with a neighbour and think things over – don't sign anything until you get the information. A 48-hour waiting period is provided for the landowner's protection and should be used to consider the documents and the compensation offered.
- Ask Companies if they are a SPOG member.

3. THINK LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

- Residents may not be able to stop a development, but they can improve relationships between company and community.
- Landholders must be fair with company representatives. However, if the representative is unsatisfactory, then residents have the right to request a different one.
- Wishing the development away, and burying your head in the sand, doesn't do any good – landholders should work toward making the situation as easy to live with as possible. A wellsite location can be changed, for example, if a particular location has an adverse effect on the landholder and/or a neighbour.
- On the one hand, residents shouldn't let the company push them around, but on the other hand, they should make sure they have good reasons for their demands.
- It is important to consider options – think win – win, and don't shut the door on people.

4. GET INVOLVED IN THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (ERP)

- In Eagle Valley, involving local residents in the ERP made people more comfortable and at ease with the activities of sour gas development (a survey was conducted by our group). People trust their neighbours and find it easier to talk to company representatives when a knowledgeable local person is present. This type of program can be an asset to industry as well as to the community. The Emergency Response Plan could be a part of the review of the SPOG New Development Committee and the Community.
- Landholders should study the ERP procedure jointly and check for mistakes in the residents contact list. Companies will need to know such things as health sensitivities, whether you have your own transportation, and your whereabouts during certain times of the day and various seasons (i.e. haying, harvesting, calving, etc.).
- The Mutual Aid Group of SPOG is made up of the companies operating in the area and promotes coordinated ERP's. This minimizes the number of visits to each residence and ensures a co-operative approach in the event of an incident.
- In some circumstances (i.e. when companies are drilling in a critical sour zone), companies offer pagers or radios to residents. Although some companies offer to provide only one electronic pager per home, residents can request more (e.g. for someone working in the field). Pagers, used to notify residents, must be on a separate frequency – otherwise interference and outside messages are received.
- When reporting an incident (smell or noise, for example), the resident should keep a record in a logbook – mark down date and time of the incident, wind direction and approximate speed, with whom and when contacts were made. A historical record keeps the facts straight and may come in handy. Residents are encouraged to contact the SPOG 24-hour emergency phone number, **1-800-567-0818**, whenever they smell an unusual odour.
- Air monitoring, by the AEUB, Alberta Environment and the Company, for possible sour gas emissions, is very important, especially during the critical stage in drilling.
- Evacuation plans need to be discussed thoroughly by the community to ensure they are practical and understood by everyone. Residents should be involved in Emergency Response Exercises to understand and learn what happens in an emergency situation.
- The company safety people are specially hired to deal with ERPs and safety issues, so they are a good information source.
- The company ERP manual describing procedures in detail and the resident information package contain valuable information for residents.

- People in Eagle Valley felt comfortable with the four-kilometre radius for their ERP. But, in some cases, industry can be requested to include in the emergency response plan some residents beyond the required notification_radius.

5. KEEP WORKING WITH THE COMPANY

- By actively working with the company on an ongoing basis, better results are achieved. Cooperative efforts mean better solutions for everyone.
- Landholders may request to have their water wells and springs tested for quality and quantity before any development takes place (seismic, drilling, off-site sumps, etc.). Similarly, testing should be done after the activity has been completed, if any changes to water quality or quantity are noted.
- Companies often use water wells located on the site when they are drilling, but landholders can decide ahead of time if this is agreeable to them or not.
- Rig tours help people understand more about what is actually happening at the well. These tours can only be arranged when the well is not in the critical zone. (People with beards are not allowed at all due to the safety mask requirement.)
- During the reclamation stage, when the land is being restored to its original state, landholders should stay in contact with the company doing work on their land. Landowners may request a copy of the reclamation certificate which is issued to the Company by Alberta Environment.
- Followup to ensure commitments made to you have been honoured.
- If you're feeling anxious about something, take some action! (Hopefully, this handbook provides some suggestions.)

6. STAY INFORMED!

- Residents should obtain as much information as possible – education can sometimes allay fears.
- If local people are informed, they can watch more closely and become involved more intelligently.
- Residents should insist that field staff visit them regularly to explain what is going on near their land. The SPOG Newsletter also outlines industry activity
- It is important to keep a list of contact people and write down what issue(s) each company or person is responsible for. This is useful for future reference should an incident occur.

7. EXPECT BOTH NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE IMPACTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

In this section, no judgements are made, nor guaranteed solutions offered. We have included statements expressed by our neighbours, so that other communities can anticipate the concerns that may arise.

- Some people state that they experience physical effects due to the emissions from the sour gas facilities and that the worry and controversy surrounding the development place them and their families under mental stress. The Parkland Airshed Management Zone, a multi-stakeholder group comprised of public, industry and government members, has commenced an air monitoring program in this area. Air quality information is available from them, and specific concerns can be brought forward.
- Landholders do gain financially from seismic activity and from having pipelines and wells on their land.
- New employment opportunities for local people can add to the quality of life in the area. Economic benefits are experienced in the area on both an individual and community-wide basis.
- Farmers should watch for possible deficiencies in their livestock due to emissions and effluents from the facilities – it's important to keep records. A protocol agreement, involving four agencies, established new guidelines for dealing with animal health issues. If you have an animal health related concern contact the EUB field centre nearest you.
- Some inconveniences can occur, such as increased dust and traffic problems, some littering at well sites and on service roads. Prevention of these inconveniences should be documented and agreed to in Performance Measures and expectations laid out by the Community.
- Setbacks from the wells and pipelines do restrict a landholder's plans for future development on his or her property. For example, the landholder may have planned to build another house or a small campground at a particular spot, and this should be taken into consideration when negotiating the location of the facility.
- Adjacent landowners may also be impacted by setback restrictions.
- Some people feel that the value of their land goes down due to the sour gas developments.
- At times, residents do experience the rotten egg smell of hydrogen sulphide (which tends to settle in low-lying areas), but the odour comes and goes. Always call the SPOG Emergency Number **1-800-567-0818** so the odour can be investigated.

8. NOTES TO THE INDUSTRY

- It is the expectation of this Community in the SPOG area that Fair Play/Best Practices be adopted by all oil and gas companies.
- First contact, for any project, must have respect for the landowner and his rights. This first contact must have a good knowledge of the development being considered, provide maps, aerial photos, surface rights information and be prepared and authorized to negotiate options.
- Companies must be sure that the first contact staff are not only trained but also have the personality, skills and caring traits that will build and foster a lasting relationship with landowners
- The community will judge all of a company's activities based on its worst performance in any one of them.
- Companies should conduct more site inspections before seismic lines are planned. Just using maps causes inconveniences to the landholder when the actual seismic work is being done in the field – the seismic crew can end up in a completely different location (and not necessarily the most desirable) than was originally outlined to the landholder on the map. Aerial photographs work well.
- The company should inform the landholder first, if any activity is being planned for his or her land, so that they don't hear about it through the rumour mill.
- Companies should inform the landholder of their intent to use water well at the drilling site. This water well could affect the water supply of the surrounding area.
- The initial company approach to the landholder should be "What are the problems going to be for you as a result of this development", not always a sales pitch about the project and its safety. Industry should realize that they are intruders.
- Residents appreciate it when a company takes the initiative to come by and explain what's going on, whether the facility involves oil, sweet or sour gas. It should be the foreman or company representative who keeps the farmer informed on a regular basis, not a rig worker.
- Often, a resident doesn't know whether it is a hunter, a trespasser, or a worker at a well site; so, it helps if the company person makes contact when s/he is in the area. It is also helpful when a company vehicle is easily identifiable.
- Industry should stress safety procedures and safety training for employees, so that company personnel don't take anything for granted.
- More attention should be given to proper equipment and maintenance; companies should not scrimp on these important operational aspects.
- The air monitoring units of both government and industry are good. It is reassuring when residents are invited in to have a look – nothing is being hidden.
- Wells and pipelines should be regularly monitored by the company for hydrogen sulphide
- Because of the restrictions applied to the land use, the disruption and risk involved, companies may want to consider annual rental for pipeline right-of-ways. (This is not the practice presently.)
- If the residents near to the sour gas facilities must live with the risk, the companies should ensure that those same people experience the benefits, such as local job opportunities and improved recreational facilities.
- Local involvement should be encouraged in all aspects of development and operations.

- It is preferable to have one person within the Company responsible for working with the Community from project start to finish. This will provide the Community with a familiar and comforting contact that has been involved with all verbal and written understandings.
- ERPs should be flexible and reach beyond the regulations to meet the community safety needs in the area. i.e. public developments, valleys, streams, prevailing winds, etc.
- Find out at the outset just how much information and contact a resident or landowner wants or requires.
- All communities have concerns about the affects that oil and gas activities have on their health, welfare and environment. Be prepared to receive these concerns with respect and understanding.
- We encourage all Companies in the area to become a member of the Sindre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG) and the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ).

9. CONCLUSION

If this handbook assists one landholder in one community to improve his or her relationship with the oil and gas industry, then our efforts will have been worthwhile. We must add, though, that there are many companies that work in both a responsive and responsible manner with their neighbours. They are to be commended. We would encourage other companies to follow their example.

Neither the community nor the industry must ever give up trying to improve the relationships between them. Companies will be working in your area for years to come, so it's important to get the relationship off on the right foot from the start.

All materials referenced in this document are available from the SPOG Office in Sundre.

a) **General Information**

References particular to a specific type of activity are included in the individual sections below. The following references are provided for general information on the oil and gas industry:

In the SPOG area:

- SPOG New Development Performance Measures
- SPOG Area Livestock Study - a comprehensive study that is in it's ninth year (as of this printing)
- Barbwire Study - A study on commercially available barbwire has shown some interesting results.

•

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) Information Services

- Guide 62 Responding to Public Concerns about Oil and Gas in Alberta
- Guide 29, Guide 17-3 and Guide 31 – covers information on hearings, inquiries, pipelines and surface rights, inspection and enforcement
- Guide 56 (Energy Development and Application Guide and Schedules)
- Guide 60 (Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring Guide)

Available from the Petroleum Communications Foundation

- Our Petroleum Challenge, Exploring Canada's Oil and Gas Industry
- Technology For Exploration and Production – A Backgrounder
- Sour Gas Questions & Answers
- Flaring Questions & Answers

Available from the Farmers Advocate:

- Quick reference contact sheet for Rural Landowners

Key Resources

Association	Toll Free (if available)	Phone	Fax	Website
Alberta Energy & Utilities Board (EUB) – Main	*Rite	(403) 297-8311	(403) 297-8114	www.eub.gov.ab.ca
Information Services	*Rite	(403) 297-8190	----	
Drayton Valley Field Office	*Rite	(780) 542-5182	(780) 542-2540	
Red Deer Field Office	*Rite	(403) 340-5454	(403) 340-5136	
St. Albert Field Office	*Rite	(780) 460-3800	(780) 460-3802	
Alberta Environment (AENV)	*Rite	(403) 340-7052	(403) 340-5022	www.gov.ab.ca
24 Hr Emergency	1-800-222-6514			
Land Reclamation Division	*Rite	(780) 427-5883	(780) 422-4192	
Alberta Farmers Advocate	*Rite	(780) 427-2433	(780) 427-3913	www.agric.gov.ab.ca >Agencies >Farmer's Advocate
Alberta Surface Rights Board	*Rite	(780) 427-2444	(780) 427-5798	
Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC)		(403) 265-0045	(403) 265-0025	www.cagc.ab.ca
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)		(403) 267-1100	(403) 261-4622	www.capp.ca
Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ)		(403) 862-7046	(403) 238-6604	www.pamz.org
Petroleum Communication Foundation (PCF)	1-877-606-4636	(403) 264-6064	(403) 237-6286	www.pcf.ab.ca
Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG)	1-888-878-2306	(403) 638-3245	(403) 638-1010	www.spog.ab.ca
24 Hr Emergency	1-800-567-0818			
* Alberta Government Rite Number: Dial 310-0000 and either dial phone number indicated or ask operator to be connected to the department				

c) Seismic

Seismic surveys are conducted to assist geologists in predicting where to drill for oil and gas. A geophysical contractor's crew lays out a line or several lines of sensitive receivers, called geophones or jugs, on the ground. Explosions or mechanical vibrations are created on the surface and the geophones record the energy reflected back as seismic waves from rock layers at various depths.

The data from a single line of geophones gives a 2-D view, while several lines will produce a 3-D picture. A 3-D seismic survey can provide more information about the extent of a formation identified initially by 2-D techniques or by previous exploration in the area.

Permitting agents negotiate compensation and any special conditions with landowners for temporary access to conduct the seismic survey. Unless permission has been granted by the landowner, seismic lines can be no closer than 180 meters from a water well or residence.

Permitting agents contact adjacent residents and landowners within 400 metres, in order to notify them of the activity and to identify domestic and agricultural water well locations for pre-seismic testing. Nearby landowners/residents can request that a quality and quantity (flow) test be done on their water well.

After the permitting agent has obtained permission to access the land, a survey crew sets out markers for the seismic program. The next steps involve helicopters and/or all-terrain vehicles to drop off and pick up equipment, a small truck-mounted rig to drill the shot holes and then a pick-up truck to ignite the charges for recording.

The permitting agent must provide you with the following information:

- Seismic Operations and Farmers' Rights
- Seismic Industry Pamphlet
- Application - Water Well Restoration or Replacement
-

Ask for an aerial photograph showing the seismic routings.

-

d) Land Survey and Acquisition

When a company's geologist is deciding on where to drill a well, s/he considers seismic data and the formation logs and production information from existing nearby wells. The landowner and/or the person who is leasing the land should play an important role in locating a proposed well and pipelines. Although the company has the right to survey private land after making a reasonable attempt to notify the owner, most surface land agents realize the importance of involving the landowner and/or occupant from the survey process to the well or pipeline location discussions.

The following publications should be requested from the surface land agent when a company wishes to acquire a lease for a wellsite or pipeline right-of-way:

- EUB Guide 17-2 Well-Site Selection and the Surface Owner
- EUB Enerfax - Factsheet #7, Keeping Back From Energy Developments
- Farmers Advocate - Negotiating Surface Rights
- Aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed development

-

If you want to find out the location planned for a particular well or facility, call The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, or the company, if you know who it is.

e) Drilling

After the lease site has been acquired and if the well is sour (the gas coming to surface contains hydrogen sulphide or H₂S) the company must prepare an emergency response plan (ERP) before beginning to drill. As noted in this booklet, the residents of Eagle Valley recommend that landowners and residents get involved in the ERP.

In preparation for drilling, equipment is hauled onto the lease and the rig set up. You can request, either as a condition of your lease or by calling the company land agent, that the drilling and/or completions foreman keep you informed of any change of activity at the site. Flaring the gas to test the well is often required to determine if the well is feasible, and also the size/type of facilities which will be needed to produce it. A landowner should discuss alternatives to flaring (such as inline testing or incineration) with the company.

f) Production

If a company decides that a well or gas/oil field is economical to produce, it begins to construct operations facilities - from simple separators on the wellsite lease to major processing plants and batteries. It should be noted that, in the case of sour facilities, a different ERP from that used in the drilling of the well may be required for the production phase.

The EUB has issued a Guide 56 (Energy Development and Application Guide and Schedules) which outlines the application process for facilities and specifically the public notification

requirements. This guide indicates the minimum radius within which the company must inform residents, landowners and occupants about the development and from whom it must obtain a signed non-objection form. EUB Guide 60 (Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring Guide) also covers public consultation guidelines in the case of flaring.

g) Pipelines and Processing

In the “Upstream” or exploration and production phase of the oil and gas business, the pipelines tie the well into a gathering system, which in turn transports the oil to an oil battery and gas to a gas processing plant. Landowners can provide direction as to routing the pipeline and timing of construction, as they relate to their ranching and farming schedules and operations.

Alberta Environment explains the procedures that must be followed by a company to reclaim the land disturbed by the construction of the pipeline (see the Conservation and Reclamation Information Letter in Section 7 below).

h) Abandonment and Reclamation

If tests indicate that a well is a dry hole, not capable of producing commercial quantities of oil or gas, the drilling crew plugs the wellbore with cement, cuts the tubing below ground and cleans up the site. Similar steps are taken if a producing well is no longer economical to operate. EUB and Alberta Environment regulations dictate specific procedures and requirements in the abandonment and reclamation of a site. Remember that the initial site preparation is as important as the final abandonment.

The following reference outlines the reclamation code of practice for Alberta:

- Conservation and Reclamation Information Letter – available from Alberta Environment, Land Reclamation Division

When an oil company comes into an area to build a large facility, make sure that all qualified people in the area are considered over outsiders, and this is guaranteed by signed agreements.

- SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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