

Statement of Opportunity

CFO Air Quality Strategic Plan

CAMS Process – Screen & Scope

CASA Secretariat – November 2004



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BACKGROUND TO CAMS PROCESS

The Comprehensive Air Quality Management System (CAMS) is CASA's basic decision-making tool. It was developed in 1994 to provide an objective and defensible decision-making process that was agreed to by all members. The CAMS process includes the steps to be followed and the criteria to be used in making decisions at each step; it is described in detail in the *CASA Comprehensive Air Quality Management System* booklet. The process is intended to ensure that finite natural, human, financial and technical resources are optimally applied. It includes the following stages:

1. Screen and scope
2. Prioritize and task
3. Design, review and approve plan
4. Implement, evaluate and review process

The first stage of the CAMS process, screen and scope, is divided into three steps:

1. Receive statement of concern/opportunity
2. Conduct initial screening
3. Clarify issues

Following the receipt of a statement of opportunity, the CASA secretariat is mandated to conduct an initial screening to determine the appropriate management response. If the issue falls within the mandate, regulations or standards of an existing agency, the party submitting the statement of opportunity will be referred to that agency. On completion of the initial screening, CASA must determine whether the issue falls within its purview, using the following criteria:

- There is a potential risk to human health
- There is a potential risk to ecological integrity
- There is potential for economic damage or damage to the resource base
- There are multiple occurrences over extended time and area
- There is a degree of public concern
- Personal and professional judgment suggest it is a significant issue
- It can be addressed within the resources of CASA

The result is a problem definition statement; in practice, this stage has been completed by a CASA working group established by the board.

STEP 1 – RECEIVE STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Attached is a statement of opportunity submitted to CASA on October 25, 2004 by Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Egg Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork, Alberta Turkey Producers and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to proactively address confined feeding operations air quality concerns in a collaborative process.

STEP 2 – CONDUCT INITIAL SCREENING

The issue raised by the attached statement of opportunity, air emissions from confined feeding operations, could be addressed by one of at least two alternative management approaches: one, the CASA multi-stakeholder, consensus based process; or two, through a strategy developed by a single stakeholder such as a government department or agency or the livestock producers themselves.

A number of factors support the referral of this issue to CASA to be addressed through the CAMS process using a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based approach:

- The statement of opportunity calls for a strategic approach to the issue.
- The issue raised is province wide.
- There are many stakeholders with an interest in resolving this issue.

Over the past two years, CASA has held discussions at a number of levels to consider whether the CASA consensus based approach is the best tool to address this issue. The first occasion was the CASA board's strategic planning session in September 2002 where members brainstormed future air quality issues that could be addressed by CASA; the resulting list included air emissions from confined feeding operations. In March 2003, the CASA board focused on nine potential issues arising from their earlier strategic planning session; while there was interest in pursuing the matter of air emissions from confined feeding operations, board members questioned what the role of CASA might be.

As a result, the CASA secretariat was asked to organize a meeting with stakeholders to share information and discuss CASA's potential role in addressing air emissions from confined feeding operations. Two meetings were held, in June 2003 and June 2004, after which various livestock producers' associations in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development concluded that the CASA approach held good potential for developing a strategy to address air emissions from confined feeding operations that would be supported by all stakeholders. Industry agricultural producers also met with representatives from CAPP to learn how the CASA process had been used to address the solution gas flaring and venting issue.

STEP 3 – CLARIFY ISSUES

In determining whether and how to proceed with this statement of opportunity, the CASA board and any working group formed by agreement of the board, will need to consider the following issues, amongst others:

1. New CASA Stakeholders – This issue will bring to the table many stakeholders who are new to CASA. Considerable attention should be paid identifying appropriate stakeholders to participate on the working group and in providing sufficient training on the consensus process.
2. Scope of the Issue – At the outset, the working group will need to examine the issue to determine an appropriate focus given the breadth of the issue.
3. Implementer – Potential implementers of a strategic framework for air emissions from confined feeding operations, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Board, are not CASA board members. Current board members from the government sector will need to establish strong links with these interested parties to ensure that their views are represented at the board table.
4. Resources – A project team addressing air emissions from confined feeding operations could require additional resources, for example to undertake background research activities. Stakeholders must be prepared to contribute funding and in-kind resources to work agreed to by the team.
5. Coordination – Considerable care will be needed to ensure that the work of a project team addressing air emissions from confined feeding operations is coordinated with government initiatives such as the Alberta Environment ambient air quality objectives setting process (for ammonia and reduced sulphur compounds) and any CASA air quality frameworks such as the SO₂ Management Framework and the Particulate Matter and Ozone Framework.