

Minutes



Flaring and Venting Project Team Meeting #56

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2010
Time: 10:15 am – 3:30 pm
Place: CAPP offices, Calgary

In attendance:

Name	Stakeholder group
Anna Maslowski	Alberta Energy
Jim Spangelo	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board
James Vaughan	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board
Andrew Higgins	CAPP/CNRL
Krista Phillips	CAPP
Randy Dobko (by phone)	Alberta Environment
Chris Severson-Baker	Pembina Institute
Jolene Shannon (joined at 1:30)	Pembina Agricultural Protection Association
Robyn Jacobsen	CASA Secretariat

With regrets:

Name	Stakeholder group
Wayne Hillier	Husky Energy
John Squarek	Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Bob Barss	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Ian Peace	RAPID

Guests:

Name	Stakeholder group
Colby Ruff	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board
Rob Hamaliuk (from 11 to 12)	Alberta Environment
Bob Savage (from 11 to 12)	Alberta Environment

The meeting convened at 10:15 am. Andrew chaired the meeting and quorum was achieved.

Action Items

Action Item	Who	Due
59.6: Wayne will provide his “evaluation of technology options” to be included in the Appendix.	Wayne	ASAP. The report may have to be finalized without this.

1) Administration

- a. Approval of the agenda: The meeting agenda and objectives were approved by consensus. It was noted that the Alberta Environment guests would be joining at 11 am, so the team will discuss the GHG offset protocol and the Climate Change Emissions Management Fund when they join.

- b. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting: Minutes of the July 30, 2010 meeting (#55) were approved by consensus.
- c. Action items follow-up: The action item list from the previous meeting was reviewed as follows:

Action Item	Who	Due
59.1: Randy to provide a link to the on emissions of heavy metals in flare stack emissions was carried out as research completed by Al Chambers of the ARC. <i>Done. Only the PDF is available at the moment and Randy has provided that.</i>	Randy	Done.
59.2: Wayne has some comments on Section 1.2.2 (Trends in Flaring and Venting). He will work with Jim and James to resolve these issues. Changes will be forwarded to Robyn. <i>Done. The team reviewed this section at their meeting of Sept 8 and made revisions.</i>	James, Jim, Wayne	Done.
59.3: In the discussion on Figure 5 (Section 1.2.2, p. 15) the team wants some discussion on why the GOR curve is important.	Jim, James	Done.
59.4: Wayne will verify that the information on the Husky presentation in Section 3.1 (Size Threshold for Economic Analysis) is correct. <i>Done. Wayne has not responded, but Andrew feels that it's accurate. Wayne may have edits, but they will have to be received by Sept 15 to be included.</i>	Wayne	Done.
59.5: In Section 3.2 (Net Present Value), industry will verify their comments on the Solution Gas Conservation Study.	Andrew (co-chair)	Done
59.6: Wayne will provide his "evaluation of technology options" to be included in the Appendix.	Wayne	Carry forward.

2) Review of Draft Team Report

The team discussed draft 5 of their report. Comments on the content of the report were recorded directly in the report. Other comments included:

- Section 3.5: The GoA representative noted that they have not been given clear direction on how the GHG Offset Protocol will affect other initiatives (e.g. The Regulatory Enhancement project). However, it was noted that the Offset Protocol was never intended to replace regulation. One stakeholder felt that a conflict of interest had developed on this issue, because industry is aware that changing any regulations (i.e. D60) could have a potential affect on the usefulness of the Offset Protocol.

3) Discussion on the Team going into Abeyance vs. Disbanding

At the last meeting, the ERCB asked each of the stakeholder groups to reconsider the recommendation to disband the team. The Team had a discussion on whether they should disband or go into abeyance.

Comments in support of the Team going into abeyance included:

- Ensures that CASA's work on flaring and venting continues into the future.
- Ensures that work on flaring and venting in Alberta maintains momentum.
- There would be a body to report to if the additional work suggested in the team's report is completed
- The Government of Alberta's work on the GHG offset protocol is still undecided, and the outcome of this work could affect the team's discussions.

Comments in support of the Team disbanding included:

- It recognizes that the team does not have consensus on how to proceed or whether further reduction in flaring and venting should be required.
- The FVPT does not have a clearly mandated goal. It doesn't make sense for a project team that does not have a clear mandate to go into abeyance.
- It ensures that any future work that CASA undertakes on flaring and venting goes through the Statement of Opportunity process. This robust process ensures that:
 - The issue is amenable to the consensus process.
 - Allows the CASA Board to assess the priority of the issue and stakeholder commitment to the issue.
 - Confirms stakeholder commitment on a new and clarified mandate for CASA to address flaring and venting.
 - Ensures that stakeholders believe that working together to develop consensus-based solutions is more desirable than the alternative.
 - Provides an opportunity to get clarity on the issue to ensure that a future team will be more effective in the long run.
- Clarifies for all stakeholders and the public that there is no longer a province wide multi-stakeholder process working towards reducing flaring and venting in Alberta.
- It was noted that the CASA Board itself has the capacity to receive updates from the government of Alberta on relating to flaring and venting. This is normal practice whenever a team completes its work and submits a final report to the Board.

Additional comments from the team's discussions included:

- Establishing an Alberta target conversation rate for solution gas flaring and venting has support, in principle, from all stakeholder groups. However, stakeholder groups have different views on whether this is a priority or not. Some stakeholder groups suggested that this is the work that could be completed if the team went in abeyance and reconvened at a later date. Other stakeholder groups feel that this could only be the mandate for a future team if the ERCB asserted plans to reduce venting and flaring by a certain date through the consensus process, or implemented unilaterally if stakeholders can not reach agreement.

4) Next Steps

- Robyn will send Draft 6 of the report ASAP. Deadline for comments on that version will be September 15. Please only forward substantive changes or “show stoppers”.
- The team’s next meeting will be a tele-conference on September 22 from 10 am to 12 pm.