

# Minutes



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## Flaring and Venting Project Team meeting #42

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008  
Time: 10:15 – 3:30 pm  
Place: CAPP, Suite 2100, 350 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Calgary

### In attendance:

Name	Stakeholder group
Andrew Higgins	CAPP/CNRL
Carol Nykolyn	Alberta Energy
Chris Severson-Baker (left at 2:30)	Pembina Institute
Ian Peace	Residents for Accountability in Power Industry Development
James Vaughan	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board
John Squarek	Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Jolene Shannon	Pembina Agricultural Protection Association
Krista Phillips	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Michael Brown	Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board
Mike Zemanek	Alberta Health & Wellness
Randy Dobko (left at 2:30)	Alberta Environment
Rudy Sundermann	CAPP/EnCana
Shannon Hiebert	CAPP/Husky
Robyn Jacobsen	CASA Secretariat

### With regrets:

Name	Stakeholder group
Anna Maslowski	Alberta Energy
Carolyn Kolebaba	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Doreen Rempel	Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas/MGV Energy Inc.
Len Vogelaar	Alberta Beef Producers
Ralph Smith	Wildrose Agricultural Producers

Mike Brown chaired the meeting, which convened at 10:15 a.m. Quorum was achieved.

### Action Items:

Action items	Who	Due
39.3 Explore the interest of the Alberta Beef Producers (current representative is Rich Smith).	Robyn Jacobsen	Update at next meeting.
40.13 Invite Matthew Johnson to come and do a presentation on flaring research for the team.	Randy Dobko	Matthew to present at Nov 18 meeting.
41.1: Distribute aggregate information on fugitive emissions once it is available.	Krista Phillips	When available.
41.4: Scan mercury emissions information and post it on the website.	Robyn	ASAP

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due</b>
41.8: Distribute a well test audit data table that includes: – The number of well tests per year. – Average time of flaring by well type.	Michael Brown (Send to Robyn. Robyn to send to team.)	Before next meeting
42.1 Update the team on the work of the ARPC, based on information presented at the Air Issues Forum on Sept 22.	Randy Dobko	Update team at next meeting.
42.2: Find out what research currently exists on new and emerging control technologies. (I.e. PTAC, industry information.)	Rudy, Mike, Randy	Update at next meeting.
42.3: Encana and CNRL will investigate what the actual tie-in times are for their companies, as well as suggestions on what could make tie-in faster.	Rudy and Andrew	Report back to the team at the next meeting.
42.4: ERCB will overlay the 2007 and 2008 Bitumen Battery graphs to show a comparison between years.	James	Next meeting
42.5: Confirm if the map entitled “2007 Solution Gas Flaring (Types 1-6, 12-15)” includes well-tests.	Michael Brown	Next meeting.
42.6: Review the discussion questions and bring feedback to the next meeting. It would be especially helpful to get feedback from producers.	All team members	Next meeting
42.7: Investigate how many new facilities are conserving (i.e. since new economic methods were introduced).	James and Michael (ERCB)	Next meeting
42.8: Edit the RFP based on the team’s discussion and distribute it to the sub-group for review.	Michael Brown	To sub-group by Sept 24, with one week to comment.
42.9: Create a work plan for the full cost project and distribute it to the team.	Robyn	ASAP
42.10: Draft the request for expressions of interest in the full cost project for the long list of consultants.	Andrew Higgins	To sub-group by Sept 24, with one week to comment.

## 1) Administration

- a. Approve Agenda and Meeting Objectives
  - It was agreed that the co-chairs would review and revise the assessment of recommendations (agenda item 4) and bring it back to the team at a later meeting.
  - A review of the Terms of Reference was added to the agenda.
  - With these changes, the agenda was approved by consensus.
  
- b. Review and approve minutes from meeting #41
  - Meeting 41 minutes were approved by consensus.
  
- c. Review action items from Meeting 41

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due</b>
39.3 Explore the interest of the Alberta Beef Producers (current representative is Len Vogelaar). <i>- Robyn has contacted Len several times with no response. John advised that Len has stepped down from CASA and we should contact the new rep.</i>	Robyn Jacobsen	Carry forward.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due</b>
40.13 Invite Matthew Johnson to come and do a presentation on flaring research for the team. <b>- Randy will speak to Matthew next week and invite him to attend our next meeting.</b>	Randy Dobko	Carry forward
40.15 Follow-up with ARPC on the implementation of the teams' recommendations. <b>- Randy will get more information at the Air Issues Forum on Sept 22 and update the team at the next meeting – See Action Item 42.1</b>	Randy Dobko	Done
41.1: Confirm that aggregate information on fugitive emissions can be shared with the team. <b>- This data is still being collected. Krista can make it available once it is compiled.</b>	Krista Phillips	Carry forward
41.2: Provide information on the implementation of fugitive emissions management plans. <b>- This information was e-mailed to the team.</b>	Krista Phillips	Done.
41.3: Provide information on on-going research, including a link to PTAC research. <b>- This information was e-mailed to the team.</b>	Randy Dobko	Done.
41.4: Scan mercury emissions information and post it on the website.	Robyn	Carry Forward
41.5: Provide the team with: – Total flared and vented volumes compared to last year. – Flared and vented volumes as a percentage of total production.	Michael Brown	On agenda
41.6: Review Q1 data for Bitumen Solution Gas to see if the sharp drop is re-occurring.	James Vaughan	On agenda
41.7: Modify “flaring & venting volumes” tables to show actual volumes and provide a description of the battery types.	James Vaughan	On agenda
41.8: Distribute a well test audit data table that includes: – The number of well tests per year. – Average time of flaring by well type. <b>- ERCB is still gathering this data.</b>	Michael Brown (Send to Robyn. Robyn to send to team.)	Carry Forward
41.9: Develop a proposal about what was intended by the well test reporting requirement.	Michael Brown	On agenda
41.10: Develop a scope for a full cost report, a workplan, and a budget, for review by team.	Ian, Chris, Mike, James, Andrew, and Krista	On agenda
41.11: Poll the sub-group for meeting dates after May 20.	Robyn Jacobsen	Done
41.12: E-mail the website link to the 2003 report. <b>- Link e-mailed Sept 25.</b>	Robyn Jacobsen	Done
41.12: Develop workplan and budget for reviewing new and emerging control technologies. <b>- There is a lot of research that has already been done – See Action Item 42.2.</b>	Rudy, Mike, Randy	Not necessary. See Action item 42.2

Action items	Who	Due
41.14: Review the information collected by CAPP and update the team on the ease of separating routine from non-routine flaring. <i>- There is no simple way to distinguish the types of flaring, since it is not a reporting requirement.</i>	Krista Phillips	Done

- It was suggested that we can calculate non-routine flaring by adding the amount of gas we know is conserved and the facilities that are approved for routine flaring.
- However, the ERCB does not give approvals, per se. They conduct 100 to 150 random audits per year to ensure that facilities are conducting the proper analysis.
  - The team was informed that 40-50% of the audits show that the economic analysis has not been done.
  - Of the remaining facilities that have done economic analyses, 1/3 have made errors.
  - The remainder of the facilities have valid reasons for not conserving.

41.15: Update the workplan as per the team's discussion.	Robyn Jacobsen	Done
41.16: Poll for dates for the next meeting.	Robyn Jacobsen	Done

## 2) ERCB Flaring and Venting Data

### *Action Item 41.5*

- Two tables were provided:
  - Venting from upstream oil and gas sources
  - Flaring from upstream oil and gas sources
- The tables show that the biggest portion of venting is coming from crude bitumen and oil. The biggest sources for flaring are crude oil and well-testing.

### *Action Item 41.6*

- Two tables were provided:
  - 2007 Bitumen Batteries
  - 2008 Bitumen Batteries
- It appears that the sharp drop evident in 2007 is re-occurring in the initial 2008 data. This is probably due to the time allowance in the requirements.
- According to D60, the 6 month test and 6 month tie-in periods are viewed as maximums; however, it is unclear whether facilities are taking the full length of time because they actually need it, or simply because they can.

**Action Item 42.3: Encana (Rudy) and CNRL (Andrew) will investigate what the actual tie-in times are for their companies, as well as suggestions on what could make tie-in faster. They will report back to the team at the next meeting.**

**Action Item 42.4: ERCB (James) will overlay the 2007 and 2008 Bitumen Battery graphs to show a comparison between years.**

### *Action Item 41.7*

- Flaring and Venting volume tables (and supporting information) were provided.
- The tables show that only a few batteries are flaring and venting high volumes. It was concluded that it would therefore be easy to do targeted audits on the facilities that are big contributors.

- A summary table of 2007 data and a series of maps showing where Flaring and Venting is occurring in the province were provided. It was noted that:
  - Facilities are considered conserving if they are conserving more than 90%.
  - Some facilities could be using conserved gas for fuel.
  - Although some paper batteries are considered non-conserving, some facilities within the battery could be conserving.
- The map entitled “2007 Gas Flaring froml Tests” shows a trend in testing along the Foothills.

**Action Item 42.5: ERCB to confirm whether or not the map entitled “2007 Solution Gas Flaring (Types 1-6, 12-15)” includes well-tests.**

*Action Item 41.9*

- “Clarification on interpretation of flared/incinerated and vented volumes and durations” was provided.

**Action Item 42.6: All team members should review the discussion questions and be prepared to bring feedback to the next meeting. It would be especially helpful to get feedback from producers.**

### **3) FVPT Sub-Group Update**

- A sub-group was formed to investigate doing a full-cost analysis for eliminating routine flaring and venting.
- The sub-group’s approach is to expect all facilities to conserve, and develop some common sense exemptions for the minority of cases where conservation would not be feasible.
- There was some discussion around the term “sensitive landscapes” that was used in the sub-group’s draft RFP. It was felt that it the exemptions should not be limited to sensitive landscapes. Additionally, identifying sensitive landscapes is a value judgement.
- It was noted that the volume of gas produced and distance to tie-in should be added to the considerations.
- It was suggested that there needs to be more clarification around greenhouse gases (especially CO<sub>2</sub>), because this is not usually something that is part of CASA’s mandate.
- There was a suggestion that perhaps it would be a better use of the team’s resources to audit facilities that have said it is uneconomical for them to conserve and find out what the main reasons are for not conserving. The ERCB noted that many of the larger facilities would have been audited already.
- Since there is already a high rate of conservation, the team discussed whether or not it would be worthwhile to expend a lot of resources to achieve only a small improvement in the conservation rate – perhaps the team should be focussing on areas with the maximum opportunity to see improvement.
  - Older facilities – the team discussed the possibility that perhaps more of the new facilities are already conserving, using the new economic methods introduced by the ERCB.
  - Crude Bitumen Batteries – these batteries are only at 87% conservation, whereas crude oil batteries are at 97%, including non-routine flaring and venting.

**Action Item 42.7: ERCB will investigate what proportion of new facilities are conserving (i.e. since new economic methods were introduced).**

**Action Item 42.8: Michael Brown will edit the RFP based on the team’s discussion and distribute it to the sub-group by September 24 for review.**

- The team agreed that it was difficult to scope this project without input from the experts. They agreed to hold a brainstorming session with some of the potential consultants to develop a better idea of what this project could include.

- The team agreed to invite a comprehensive list of consultants to submit their expressions of interest in this project. The team would narrow this list to suitable consultants and invite these candidates to attend a brainstorming session to scope the RFP. This short list of consultants would then be invited to submit proposals based on the revised RFP.
- The team brainstormed a list of possible consultants.

**Action Item 42.9: Robyn will create a work plan and distribute it to the team.**

**Action Item 42.10: Andrew Higgins will draft the request for expressions of interest for the long list of consultants.**

## **4) Review Terms of Reference**

The team reviewed the Terms of Reference to ensure that they were still on track.

*Objectives (from Terms of Reference)*

1. Evaluate progress in reducing flaring and venting.
  - *The team is committed to on-going review of the ERCB data.*
2. Review the status of the recommendations of the Flaring and Venting project team – 2004 and 2005 reports.
  - *The co-chairs are looking at this task and will bring their assessment of the implementation of recommendations to the team.*
3. Assess research findings and their implication for management of flaring and venting. Also determine other research needs and recommend further research.
  - *This will added to the agenda for the next meeting.*
4. Review flare performance requirements and efficiency standards, and determine the feasibility of combustion efficiency standards for all flares.
  - *The team needs to brainstorm a list of what they already know and identify gaps.*
  - *This will be useful in conjunction with a presentation from Matthew Johnson.*
  - *This will added to the agenda for the next meeting.*
5. **Assess the feasibility of setting a date for the elimination of routine solution gas flaring and venting at new facilities.**
  - *The full cost project will provide further information on this objective.*
6. Review upstream oil and gas Flaring and Venting Management Framework and make recommendations for further improvements.
  - *After all the above work is complete, the team will be able to work on this objective.*

## **5) CASA Update**

- Robyn Jacobsen gave a brief overview of the progress of other CASA project teams.

## **6) Other Business and Next Meeting**

- The team's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18 in Edmonton.

Agenda Items

- Review available research findings and determine/recommend further research needs.
- Discuss determining the feasibility of combustion efficiency standards for all flares.
- Presentation from Matthew Johnson.
- Review draft RFP.

## **7) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**