

For Immediate Release:
January 5, 2004

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOUR GAS RELEASES REPORT: EVALUATION OF EUB'S IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS TO OCTOBER 2003

(Calgary, Alberta, January 5, 2004) The Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas today released its report entitled *Evaluation of EUB's Implementation Progress to October 2003*.

The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) formed the *Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas* (the Advisory Committee) in January 2000 to review the regulatory system for sour gas as it relates to public health and safety. Since then, the Advisory Committee, made up of all major stakeholders, meets at least annually to monitor and assess the progress made on all 87 recommendations delivered in their December 2000 report. These recommendations are directed toward improving the sour gas regulatory system and reducing the impacts of sour gas on public health and safety.

On November 25, 2003, the Advisory Committee met to discuss implementation progress following publication of the EUB's semi-annual report on implementation progress: *Public Safety and Sour Gas Semi-Annual Progress Report 2003* (issued October 2003). The Advisory Committee's subsequent observations and comments to the EUB are contained in a report titled *Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas Evaluation of EUB's Implementation Progress to October 2003*.

Advisory Committee Chair Gerry DeSorcy states - "A large component of the Advisory Committee's discussions centered on the good progress made to date by the EUB and partners, and the recognition of the personal commitment and hard work demonstrated by staff involved in the implementation work." Certain 'highlights' noted by the Advisory Committee included advances made in the Health Effects area - work largely undertaken by Alberta Health and Wellness, and exceptional implementation achievements by the EUB's Field Surveillance team - particularly as related to improved communications with aboriginal communities.

The Advisory Committee suggested to the EUB that there is a need to focus their implementation work on the intention of each recommendation. Stakeholder input is also encouraged during implementation. This would not only assist with implementation focus but could improve work outcomes.

The Advisory Committee believes that because implementation work has advanced to a stage where routinely published reports from the EUB may be consuming significant resources for little gain, the EUB should now consider only issuing reports when there is something major to convey.

Likewise, the Advisory Committee determined that because detailed work on many recommendations is now significantly advanced, future Advisory Committee meetings would be determined on the basis of significant key developments in implementation work. The Advisory Committee will next meet, to review the EUB's implementation progress and publish the results, likely in the March to May 2004 time period. This meeting will take place after the proposed requirements for calculating emergency planning zones, including the

dispersion model, have incorporated the changes suggested to it by the stakeholders. The Advisory Committee Chair will stay in touch with the EUB regarding progress of the dispersion model, and a firm meeting date will be set when more is known.

Advisory Committee members will continue to individually monitor the implementation progress through direct stakeholder involvement in many of the implementation tasks underway and by remaining in contact with the EUB on matters as they arise. The Advisory Committee continues to be available for involvement in the implementation work of any of the recommendations at the request of the EUB or the public.

The Advisory Committee's *Evaluation of EUB's Implementation Progress to October 2003* report is available on the Advisory Committee's website at <http://www.publicsafetyandsourgas.org>, or on the EUB website at www.eub.gov.ab.ca, or by contacting the Advisory Committee at:

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For further information, please contact the Advisory's Committee's Chairman Gerry DeSorcy by e-mail at desorcyg@telus.net

The EUB's *Semi-Annual Progress Report 2003*, and the Advisory Committee's *Findings and Recommendations Final Report* are both available at the EUB's Calgary Office and Field Centers, and on the EUB website at www.eub.gov.ab.ca