

26 June 2001

Public Safety Implementation Team Outreach Sessions Summary of Feedback

The Public Safety Implementation Team visited nine communities throughout the Province (Grande Prairie, Edson, Drayton Valley, Leduc, Rocky Mountain House, Sunde, Calgary, High River and Pincher Creek) to roll out the EUB's first year plan for implementation of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Approximately 300 people participated in the sessions. Other feedback mechanisms included providing comments by calling a member of the implementation team, via e-mail or completing a feedback form following community sessions. Eleven feedback forms and nine e-mail messages have been received to date.

Aboriginal roll out sessions were also held and a summary of input is included separately in this report.

Overall, the public was supportive of the EUB's implementation plan and the priorities established for year 1. Most felt that action needed to take place immediately. Some were skeptical about the EUB's seriousness to act and want to see results. The following is a summary of input received that was directly related to the mandate of the Advisory Committee and the EUB's implementation plan.

- **Sour Gas Development Planning and Approval – Area Development Planning**

Feedback from most communities indicated that area development planning amongst operators was necessary and that there is a need for full disclosure of project development with a community early on in the process and disclosure should be required as part of the EUB's application process.

Many participants supported the need for better coordination of surface and subsurface development planning.

Some indicated that the EUB's plant proliferation policies needed to be enforced and extended to other facilities and that new technologies should be considered to reduce the need for new facilities.

One participant suggested that the municipalities should have more input into the location of oil and gas facilities.

- **Health Effects and Monitoring**

Most participants agreed that it was necessary to immediately conduct more research into the effects of sour gas exposure on people. A few people felt that there had already been sufficient research and the effects are well known so further research is not necessary.

Most felt that the currently available information on health effects of H₂S and SO₂ needs to be publicly available and better communicated.

Many key stakeholder representatives indicated that there is a need to ensure full stakeholder involvement in implementation of health related recommendations.

Many felt that the roles of the regional health authority and the EUB in health related issues needs to be clarified.

Most supported the need for development of better, more portable personal monitors.

Some expressed the need for an exposure/knockdown registry to be developed this year rather than in year 2 or 3 of implementation.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

Most participants agreed that it was important to ensure that emergency response procedures are well defined and that plans are tested to ensure they can be implemented.

Many people commented on the need to ensure that the necessary infrastructure, including local government capability, is available for emergency response.

Some expressed concern about the responsibility for compensation for damages caused by sour gas emergencies.

- **Regulatory Process and Roles and Responsibilities**

Most participants were pleased that the EUB was increasing its field presence and some expressed the need to ensure that EUB staff (current and new employees) have the appropriate background and training to carry out their responsibilities.

Many also felt that it is important to address the need for the EUB to be, and to be perceived to be, neutral. Funding of the EUB was often discussed.

Many people agreed that the roles and responsibilities of the EUB, regional health authorities, municipalities and others needs to be clarified and communicated.

- **Information, Communication and Consultation**

Most participants confirmed that good, unbiased, reliable information is needed and that early communication is necessary. They felt that there needed to be improvements in the information available from the EUB and the way in which the EUB makes information available to and communicates with, the public.

Most participants also confirmed the need for industry to improve the way in which it consults with the public and the information it provides.

A few people believed that the public should involvement at the mineral leasing stage.

A few also stated that they do not believe a study of local benefits from sour gas development is necessary and therefore disagreed that it should be done.

- **Inspection and Enforcement**

Most participants agreed that inspection and enforcement should be consistently carried out throughout the Province and that enforcement actions for sour gas non-compliance should be firmer and faster.

Many people commented that the EUB needed a larger compliance staff and that they should conduct more unannounced inspections.

- **General Feedback**

A few participants suggested that a moratorium be placed on further sour gas development until the recommendations are fully implemented.

Some stated that the PS&SG Committee report is good but now EUB must “Walk the Talk”.