

Oil and Gas Liaison Officer Information Report

2008 Annual Report

Recommendation:

That the January 7, 2009, Planning and Development Department report 2009PLU101 be received for information.

Report Summary

This is an annual report outlining the impact the City of Edmonton's Oil and Gas Liaison Officer has had in 2008.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the January 30, 2008, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That the Implementation Plan for Oil and Gas Facilities, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the January 8, 2008, Planning and Development Department report 2008PDP103, be approved with the following amendment:
 - a. the working group membership be expanded to include individuals in affected communities; and
 - b. an annual report be provided to Executive Committee outlining the impact of the Oil and Gas Liaison Officer.
 - c. That "and at least two members of the public from communities affected by oil and gas activity, to be selected through a recruitment process" be added at the end of the second

paragraph of Section 1.1.3 on page 14 of E.9.

2. That Oil and Gas Facilities Policy C515, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the January 8, 2008, Planning and Development Department report 2008PDP103, be approved.
3. That the City Manager consider adding the following subsection iii) to section 2.04 of the Policy & Procedures:
 - iii) A procedure that will ensure Administration's involvement in further ERCB processes such as hearings or appeals, should it be necessary."

Report

- On January 30, 2008, Oil and Gas Policy C515 and the Oil and Gas Facilities Implementation Plan were approved by Council for implementation by City departments.
- Several of the Implementation Plan initiatives have been undertaken since it was approved by Council.
- In March 2008, a Liaison Officer role was incorporated into Administration's work program. This Liaison Officer acts as a point person for general oil and gas inquiries, coordinates communications, public awareness and information including a web page, administers the Oil and Gas Multi-Party Working Group, develops educational materials, undertakes presentations, and provides procedural information and guidance for the coexistence of oil and gas facilities in and adjacent to the City of Edmonton.
- In April 2008, an Oil and Gas Multi-Party Working Group was established by the Oil and Gas Liaison Officer. The membership of

this working group consists of representatives from the oil and gas industry, Alberta Environment, Energy Resources Conservation Board, Capital Health/Alberta Health Services, Urban Development Institute, Canadian Homebuilders Association, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, Edmonton and Area Pipeline and Utilities Operators Committee, and Parkland County as well as City departments including Planning and Development, Transportation and the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP). Two members of the group are expected to be from communities affected by oil and gas activity. To date, an ongoing recruitment process has been unsuccessful in retaining two public members-at-large.

- Four meetings of the Oil and Gas Multi-Party Working Group were held in 2008. It is intended that this group meet three to four times annually.
- Public awareness has been a priority for the Liaison Officer in 2008. An Oil and Gas website has been constructed to provide ongoing information to the public and industry. The Multi-Party Working Group activities are also posted there.
- A Planner's Oil and Gas Help Manual has been prepared and distributed to Administration to assist dealing with oil and gas facilities. Three training sessions were held in 2008.
- The Oil and Gas Liaison Officer has done a number of information presentations in response to an increasing Province-wide interest in Edmonton's approach to the urban development/oil and gas interface.

These include EAPUOC (September 2008), Synergy Alberta Conference with OEP (October 2008), and Capital Health/Alberta Health Services "InfoShare" (November 2008).

- The Oil and Gas Liaison Officer has been working with Administration to ensure ongoing planning activities incorporate a number of the oil and gas objectives. These include incorporating oil and gas industry pre-consultation for the preparation of Area Structure Plans, and urban design recommendations for the proposed Suburban Neighbourhood Design Guidelines.
- The Oil and Gas Liaison Officer works collaboratively with Administration to evaluate and manage the Emergency Response Plans of the oil and gas industry. A 2008 initiative completed by OEP was an inventory and geo-referenced database including photographs of all oil wells and battery facilities throughout the City of Edmonton.
- In 2009, the Oil and Gas Liaison Officer will continue to support and administer the Implementation Plan activities initiated in 2008.

Policy

This is the annual report required by the Council approved implementation plan for Oil and Gas Facilities Policy C515.

Focus Area

The topic of this report is most directly related to the City of Edmonton Strategic Plan ten-year strategic goal to "Improve Edmonton's Livability" through measures to protect health and safety and processes that support and facilitate community involvement and participation.