



**OIL AND GAS COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

File: 200-20/ADV

May 17, 2004

Derek Doyle
Commissioner
Oil and Gas Commission
200 10003 110 Avenue
Fort St. John, BC V1J 6M7

Dear Derek Doyle:

Re: Advice from the OGC Advisory Committee

Further to our meeting of April 22, 2004, I am writing to provide our specific advice to the Oil and Gas Commission on behalf of the Committee.

• **Advisory Committee Administration**

- The Advisory Committee's job description needs to be updated to state that a commitment to attend regular meetings is required by all members.
- If a Committee member misses more than two general meetings per year, their term should be reviewed.
- The Advisory Committee would like the number of members to increase from 8 to 10. Five members will be required to form a quorum for regular meetings but only four will be required to form a quorum for Requests for Reconsideration because the timelines are short which makes it difficult to form quorums.
- The Advisory Committee would like a First Nation from Southern BC where oil and gas development is just starting, be invited to participate on the Committee as an ex-officio member as this would provide Southern BC First Nations with a perspective regarding the kinds of issues northern communities are dealing with.
- The Advisory Committee would like the two new appointments to be representatives of land owners and recreation tenure holders (i.e. Guide Outfitters). The Committee would also like to recommend Karen Goodings as a representative for land owners.
- The Commission and MEM should start soliciting the First Nations as soon as possible so the new member will be able to come in to the position immediately upon Carylin's completion of her term (November 2004).

• **Terms of Reference:**

- The Terms of Reference should be updated to reflect 10 AC members as opposed to 8.

- **OGC Overview:**

- The OGC should develop an “Environmental Checklist” that should be completed and submitted as part of project applications.
- The Committee does not believe that the field portions of archaeological assessments can be carried out successfully in the winter when the land is snow covered, and recommend that this procedure be discontinued.
- The OGC should develop a First Nations Consultation Guidelines document separate from the Public Involvement Guidelines.
- The OGC should develop a “Public Consultation Form” that would be required of the proponent to complete, sign and submit to the OGC along with their applications. The OGC should not review any applications or issue any licenses until they have received a signed copy of this form, which should document public consultation undertaken, issues identified, mitigation measures undertaken, and any outstanding issues. Public consultation should provide clear direction in this regard rather than making recommendations to companies which they are not required to follow, which is the current practice.
- The Flow Chart should be redesigned so that the OGC application process does not commence until First Nations comments have been received as this will provide First Nations with a sense of trust that the OGC is listening and addressing their concerns.
- The OGC needs to be proactive in acting upon MOU terms rather than waiting for communities to initiate discussions related to the MOU.
- The Commission needs to review all MOU’s at least once a year to ensure the OGC is meeting its commitments and actively engaging First Nations in joint initiatives agreed to within the MOUs.

- **Use of Existing well sites:**

- A mechanism must be established to encourage the re-use of existing wellsite locations, rather than construct additional well sites adjacent to existing locations. The liability for the development of the existing well sites should remain with the original owner, while attaching new liabilities to the new owner. This would encourage companies to reuse existing sites as opposed to drilling new ones which would reduce cumulative effects.

- **LRMPs**

- The Commission needs to refrain from referring to applications meeting in response to First Nations’ Requests for Reconsideration given the First Nations did not participate formally or fully in the LRMP process and therefore do not consider the First Nation interests or concerns.

We look forward to hearing how you will move forward on the advice given.

Sincerely,

Kathi Dickie,
Vice Chair

pc: Oil and Gas Commission Advisory Committee