



Farmington Community Working Group Summary Notes

Date: Sept. 18, 2018

In Attendance: Director Len Hiebert Area D, Peace River Regional District
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager, Peace River Regional District
Ken Paulson, Executive VP, Chief Operating Officer, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Corey Jonsson, Director, Stakeholder Relations, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Maria Reschke, Manager, Stakeholder Relations, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Laura-Lea Gibson, Community Relations, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Hugh Craig, Community Member
Toby Hanfield, Community Member
Lana Sprinkle and Corey Quinton, Community Members
Jim and Pat Strasky, Community Members
Rod and Kim Strasky, Community Members
Barry Critcher, Community Member

Summary of Discussion:

Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Director Hiebert opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table. Director Hiebert started the meeting explaining what steps have happened to date and how we have gotten to this point. The first meeting regarding the Farmington area was with the PRRD in December of 2017, resulting in the PRRD meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Commissioner of the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) in May. Since then the community has met four times to discuss their concerns, once with a consultant hired by the Commission and the last three directly with the Commission. Director Hiebert encouraged the community members to recognize this is a quick pace not generally seen in government.

Maria Reschke presented a tentative work calendar which included topics, status and target dates for actions. This will be a live document and will be updated as we move forward.

Some community members questioned when industry will be invited to the meetings as they are feeling led astray. They are not satisfied they have seen results and feel there has been an escalation in noise and activity in the community. They questioned who from the Commission has been in the area to review the impacts in Farmington.

Ken Paulson confirmed the Commission's Board was in the area in late August to observe the number of projects within the Farmington community. It was also explained that all hands are on deck with a lot of Commission staff working to find solutions on the

issues raised by the Farmington Working Group. As an example, Mr. Paulson referred to the [Kiskatinaw Seismic Monitoring and Mitigation Area \(KSMMA\) order](#) issued within the Farmington area, being the first of its kind globally. He explained how it has:

- Increased awareness of induced seismicity.
- Ensured residents were aware it might happen and what to do if it did.
- Provided reporting and complaints information.
- Forced dialogue between companies and residents.
- Has led to changes in behavior and fracking operations.
- Influenced Encana's recent change to lower Montney completions only during daylight.
- Increased understanding that very low magnitude events can be felt.

Mr. Paulson explained the possibility of putting an order in place similar to the KSMMA order for noise. Mr. Paulson and other Commission members did meet with six of the operating companies within the area asking them to form an operators group. Industry understands there is a problem and are looking for solutions and balance between themselves and residents.

Some of the community members brought up concerns with seismic events such as:

- Two seismic events were felt last night.
- There is no monitoring in place.
- Discussion on damages becomes a case of "he said, she said".
- Land owners believe they are left to deal with the damages years afterwards and asked what is being done to address the damage.
- Can seismic events be put into the permitting process?

Mr. Paulson described the monitors currently in place within the Farmington area and indicated that 11 new monitors are on order. He recognized these are not perfect solutions but allows the Commission to monitor. He also explained the Commission's responsibility as the regulator is to balance development pressures with quality of life issues in the area. The Farmington area is close to producing one third of Canada's gas and forecasts, by the National Energy Board and other organizations, show it is not likely to change.

Mr. Paulson informed the community that he hopes to see the revisions in the Noise Guidelines to be complete in the upcoming weeks. The original guideline was intended to address noise primarily at facilities. Updates would include operations at well sites, in addition to mitigation plans, noise complaint protocols and requiring industry to talk to residents about noise.

Other items that were discussed during the meeting included:

- Consultation fatigue – too many requests from multiple operators on too many things.
- Not enough direct dialog with permit holders – some participants acknowledged this was contrary to point above.
- The problems remain – noise, seismicity, etc. will continue as development proceeds.

- General understanding this group can help in finding ways to temper the issues – not remove all of them.
- Some time spent on hypothetical situations around compensation.
- Lots of support for limiting the number of permits thereby limiting activity levels.

Community members noted no studies have been completed on the effects to the fields after a pipeline has been put into place. They are concerned about the impact to crop yields by the heat from pipeline right of ways and residual sulphur from flaring and have been incurring costs themselves to have research completed to prove these impacts. It was suggested, through research societies in the province, the community group participate in a study on impact to crop yields to help bear the burden of cost. The Commission will provide information to community members regarding research programs that may assist in this process.

Next Steps:

The community working group was unable to revisit the topic of Consultation and Notification and agreed this will be discussed and recommendations agreed on at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Oct. 16, 2018