



Farmington Community Working Group Summary Notes

Date: Feb. 12, 2019

In Attendance:

Director Len Hiebert Area D, Peace River Regional District
Director Rose Area E, Peace River Regional District
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager, Peace River Regional District
James O'Hanley, Vice President, Applications, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Corey Jonsson, Director, Stakeholder Relations, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Maria Reschke, Manager Stakeholder Relations, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Laura-Lea Gibson, Community Relations Assistant, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Noel Millions, Surface Land Manager, Encana Corporation
Steve Lepp, Director Surface Land and Stakeholder Relations, Canadian Natural Resources
Andrea Fiedler, Manager, Surface Land & Aboriginal Relations, Arc Resources Ltd.
Brett Norrie, Landman Tourmaline Oil Corp.
Corey Quinton, Community Member
Kim and Rod Strasky, Community Members
Pat and Jim Strasky, Community Members
Barry Critcher, Community Member
Toby Handfield, Community Member
Hugh Craig, Community Member

Summary of Discussion:

Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Director Len Hiebert opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Maria Reschke also gave a welcome and introductions were made around the table. Chris Pasztor Executive Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Matteo Villani Senior Surface Landman, Crew Energy Inc. were unable to attend the meeting as planned due to cancelled flights.

Maria Reschke provided a brief overview of the work the Farmington Community Working Group (FCWG) has put into identifying issues and providing recommendations and started the discussion by presenting an outline of concerns regarding noise and light. Noel Millions opened the presentation on behalf of the producers group by assuring community members they are working hard to minimize noise and light issues. The presentation given jointly by the producers group showed they have been working together for some time to mitigate these issues and are exploring initiatives while balancing public concerns with the safety and security of those working on site.

The producers group has started a process of "fingerprinting" all equipment that emits noise. This includes collecting noise measurements at a field level, feeding it into a model to determine noise footprint and implementing into a field model. Additional effort and consideration has also been taken to ensure the service

industry has tested and fit equipment prior to it being brought on site. The producers group described work that has gone into testing placement of equipment on site to prevent noise from leaving the site. Although each site presents unique challenges, the producers group continues to explore options, share data and is actively monitoring sites.

The FCWG expressed concern regarding noise controls only being in place for operators in Farmington. The producers group indicated the measures being taken are not limited to Farmington and are being implemented on all their sites. James O'Hanley clarified the Noise Order was put in place for Farmington due to the high levels of activity, however, requirements under the Noise Control Best Practices Guideline are applicable to activity in the entire province.

Community members raised additional concerns regarding noise as a result of traffic traveling to and from oil and gas sites, the low throbbing sounds of trucks and clanging noise of trucks carrying pipes. The producers group was clear they do take this very seriously and although it is not something that falls solely within the BC Oil and Gas Commission's (Commission) jurisdiction they are receptive to input from community members. The producers group has been monitoring traffic coming in and out of sites.

The producers group included information on steps being taken to address lighting concerns including using: onsite lighting generators; two larger enclosed units rather than 20 smaller units; photo cell lights so they turn off during the day; and turning off lights when not needed. Brett Norrie provided an example of changes his company has implemented at a number of sites. With the exception of lights critical to operations, all lights are turned off, and when an operator comes back on site they automatically turn back on.

The producers group used a before and after picture of the Tower Lake facility to demonstrate the effectiveness of light mitigation measures taken. The FCWG recognized the marked difference and felt reassured with the steps being taken. The producers group also explained the original designs of many sites were limited to having one breaker to simultaneously turn all lights off and on. They are now making modifications to manage lights for different parts of sites separately. It was also noted how important it is for industry to find a balance between the impact to land owners and the need for sufficient lighting to run sites safely and avoid vulnerability to onsite theft due to insufficient lighting.

The producers group made it very clear to the FCWG going forward they will continue to model and monitor noise and light mitigation efforts, continue to share best practices amongst the group and continue to push for support from industry support services. They also committed to an ongoing dialogue and addressing other topics the FCWG will be working on.

The next half of the meeting was spent discussing timing and planning together with consultation and notification. Members of the FCWG do not feel there is adequate opportunity to raise concerns from the time the Province sells a tenure to industry to the time a permit is issued. They would like to understand the big picture on what is going to happen on the land rather than getting multiple consultation and notification letters describing new or amended activities.

The producers group provided feedback on the difficulties they face when they are uncertain what will happen in a year. Work on the ground can change very quickly and they too learn something new all the time. The producers group also expressed how difficult it can be to have these conversations when land owners do not respond to requests to meet or simply are not interested.

The FCWG made it clear they would like to be considered in the planning from the start and to be kept informed of changes before they are made. It is important to them to understand what they will experience on their land, including the time frame from when the project starts to when it is complete, the number of trucks that will be on the roads, what the trucks are hauling and the time of day they will be hauling.

The FCWG expressed frustration that once tenures are sold, there is little responsibility taken by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) for the cumulative impacts experienced on the land. This initiated the conversation about the MEMPR selling tenures and the Commission granting multiple permits at one time with no regard for cumulative effect. James O'Hanley provided a reminder about the Commission's obligations as a regulator and the complications that can arise if it says yes to one permit but no to another. As the regulator the Commission does not make government policy regarding the time frame from when the tenure is purchased to the time a permit is issued and no limit to how many permits a company can apply for within that tenure. The FCWG believes the discussions they are having with industry regarding concerns are not being reported back to the Commission. They are looking for evidence that all concerns and questions are being submitted with the application to the Commission and would like more detailed letters to address their concerns without the generic responses they feel are not addressing their concerns.

Next Steps:

At the close of the meeting, the producers group expressed interest in meeting again with the FCWG to discuss further concerns. The FCWG was encouraged by the evening's discussion and indicated they are willing to consider this. The group was reminded the initial one year pilot project time frame would be reached by end of July, at which point a decision would be made by the Commission and PRRD regarding future structure of the meetings. Some members of the producers group made themselves available to the community members for additional discussions independent of the FCWG.

Next Meeting:

March 12, 2019 was confirmed and at which point concerns regarding roads and traffic will be discussed.