

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE



November 1, 2010

Dear Synergy 2010 Conference Participants,

Thank you for your contribution to Access to Information in Alberta.

This conference session included two interactive exercises that do not appear on the slides:

1. What do you want to know?

- participant information requests

2. Best practices:

-best requests

-best responses

-from the perspective of information seekers and delivery agents

The Environmental Law Centre cannot post an immediate participation summary. I have a baby due on November 2nd and have decided to take some time away from the office.

I have attached the list of participant questions and comments below. These contributions will be merged the 2011 publication: Access to Environmental Information in Alberta. If you need faster assistance, please use the ELC's ongoing public information service. In the meantime, here are some existing publications that may be helpful to you:

Access to Information in the Oil and Gas Industry

<http://dspace.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/1880/47552/1/HR6-Web.pdf>

(Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre and Canadian Institute of Resource Law).

Guide to Access to Information and Protection of Privacy – Alberta and Canada

(Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre)

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy: Guidelines and Practices (annual)

(Government of Alberta)

The Annotated Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (annual)

(Clark Dalton and Alberta Queen's Printer)

Best Regards,



Adam Driedzic
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SYNERGY 2010 CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS

1. Questions about the state of the environment:

AIR

What is the quality of the air in my home and office?

An explanation of H2S data on well notification. What does it mean to landowner's health?
What safety or emergency procedures should I know?

LAND

Where is information about reclamation projects kept?
Eg. Wellsite saltwater cleanup – monitoring of, documentation about?

Was the wellsite in the back yard reported correctly at the time of abandonment, and did the ERCB have a record of it at all?

WATER

Percolation rates of specific land areas. Water routes, settling areas, springs etc (rural and urban)

Groundwater monitoring information should be freely available (both quantity and quality)

GENERAL

Can I access the EIA for a project? Where do I get that? Eg: proposed pipeline?

Access to information on environmental impacts in Alberta's Industrial Heartland region.

Environmental information and data availability?

2. Questions about environmental law:

If you aren't an adjacent landowner, how can one appeal aggregate development that will affect the local aquifer and watershed?

Can you tell me if municipalities are permitted to put landfill leachate from a landfill collection pond into a sewage lagoon that will be pumped into a stream (connected to a main watercourse) when the lagoon is full?

How can we protect our water systems from development?

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3. Questions and comments about information delivery systems:

Will I have to pay to get information about my land?

If you are going to recommend that information be available online, who will pay to combine and maintain it? Alberta Environment doesn't have the budget, so will people pay to use the system?

Ask Alberta Environment about the Information Portal.
- working for 3 years to get oil sands information on line.

Online access in a central location for government data would be helpful for the public and academics. How complicated would it be to create that system?

Need full gravel pit database online -size, location, wet and dry

Development information accessible by municipalities should also be available to public, such as known environmental issues, locations of abandoned wells, monitoring, etc.

Would like ease of access to Alberta Information re. environmental issues

Look at the BC system "i-map":

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