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## ALBERTA INQUIRY FINDS OIL ODOURS MAY BE MAKING PEOPLE SICK

An Alberta panel has recommended changing to the way oil companies near Peace River handle their emissions due to their potential to sicken residents.

It's at least a partial victory for families who have insisted for years the smells have made them so sick they've been driven from their homes. But, it shies away from a blanket recommendation that odours be completely eliminated, instead suggesting that they be eliminated "to the extent possible," and that all produced gas should be conserved "where feasible."

The independent Alberta Energy Regulator panel, which held public hearings in January, heard evidence from local residents, scientists, engineers and oil companies on the issue of odours and emissions from heavy oil operations near Peace River.

Residents had complained for years about health problems such as dizziness, headaches and stomach issues they attributed to fumes from the oil development. Seven families have left their homes, according to



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Keith Wilson, lawyer for some of the families who presented at the hearing.

In a report released Wednesday, the panel found that odours from heavy oil operations in the area have "the potential to cause some of the symptoms experienced by residents." As such, they recommend that the odours be eliminated as much as possible

and the linkages between odour and health be studied more closely.

But the panel didn't find any indication the chemicals themselves were poisoning residents - just that people's symptoms were likely linked to odours.

The panel had some concrete recommendations for oil companies: Notably, the AER require that all

produced gas be captured, and that gas from bitumen storage tanks (a particular concern for many residents) be captured using vapour recovery technology. It recommends that this equipment be installed within four months on existing facilities, and immediately on any new facilities in the area. Additionally, the panel recommends

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the regulator prohibit gas venting. In an emergency situation where flaring is not available, the report suggests, the well should be immediately shut in. And when gas leaks are discovered, the problem should be repaired within 12 hours, or the facility should be shut down until repairs are completed.

Existing provincial regulations aren't sufficient to "effectively manage hydrocarbon odours and emissions," the report states. As such, it recommends the AER establish local regulations for the Peace River area and that Alberta's environment ministry examine establishing odour guidelines for the entire province.

The report also notes that bitumen in the area contains more sulphur than most bitumen, making it "likely a source of the ongoing odour and emissions complaints and symptoms reported by residents." The panel recommends the bitumen be studied further to determine what volatile compounds could be released when it's heated during processing.

Baytex did not respond to questions Monday afternoon.

Brian Labrecque, whose family has argued for years the smells have made them sick and driven them from their homes, was buoyed by the report- not least because it came out on time.

"It is encouraging. It's nice to see that what we've been saying for the last number of years, a lot of it has been confirmed and has been supported by the panel," he said.

"It's a step in the right direction.

Obviously, we've got a long road ahead of us: These are recommendations; they're not legally binding."

But he'd like to see them implemented - "too much time has passed. It's imperative," he argued. That includes recommendations to curb emissions as well as independent measures to monitor them.

"I think we have to show the world that we can develop our resources in a responsible manner."

In the meantime, the families await word on an injunction that would force Baytex Energy to halt its operations until it installs equipment to minimize its emissions. That decision could come within the month.

After that, it could be a years-long battle for damages and compensation.

But in the meantime their lawyer Keith Wilson is pleased with the report, and confident its recommendations will be implemented and have teeth.

"There's strong political support to see this problem fixed," he said. But "as much as this is a victory and a vindication for these families, the reality is they're still out of their homes. This does nothing to address the harm of the past or the harm of the present."

### ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION MAKES THE BEST OF OIL MONEY

With \$250M in revenues, First Nation sets up a trust to gain independence

Tucked away in the Wood Buffalo region in northern Alberta,

Fort Chipewyan rests at the western tip of Lake Athabasca.

Just downstream from the Alberta oilsands, the tiny northern community has faced off with an insurmountable and ever-expanding oil industry for over three decades.

But leaders with the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) say they aren't letting big oil run their lives or ruin their traditional way of life.

Instead, they're taking matters — and money — into their own hands.

"Forty years ago it was trapping, and that livelihood was stripped, so now people are left trying to find other ways to put food on the table," said Athabasca Dene youth leader Mike Mercredi, from his home in Fort Chipewyan.

"But if we are not focusing on the culture and way of life, then you might as well say we are ghosts; We are dead. I am not going to allow that while I am alive."

Suncor operations near Fort McMurray, Alta. The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation has faced off with an insurmountable and ever expanding oil industry for over three decades. (CBC)

Mercredi once worked for a large oilsands company, then battled against the industry, campaigning for closure of the oilsands. But now he's looking for constructive solutions — ways for his people to live without sole dependency on the oil and gas industry.

"It's finding ways to blend culture and traditional and Western teachings. It's time for these

things to happen now because our way of life is disappearing along with this resource," he said.

The 38-year old recently started a youth and elder program called the Experiential Learning Initiative. His project uses the land, elders and the classroom to teach traditional skills to the community's high school students.

But one of the few funding options for the project was from the industry. Federal funding is sparse these days and often characterized by micro-management, according to some First Nations leaders.

Mercredi says six large oil companies have given funding to his project, through a fund allocated for youth and community programs in Fort Chipewyan.

It's one example of the many complexities present in a community struggling in a rapidly changing world.

But the ACFN is not about to sit on the sidelines and watch. It's looking to set up its own community funds.

No federal funding

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is one of the only First Nations in Canada to refuse federal funding under a contribution agreement — funds that must be spent according to agreed-upon conditions, monitored and reviewed by Ottawa.

"We refuse to take funding from the federal government because of the laws and everything that comes with it," says ACFN Chief Allan Adam. (CBC)

"We refuse to take funding from the federal government because of the



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laws and everything that comes with it," Chief Allan Adam said from his office in Fort Chipewyan.

Adam said Ottawa recently enacted a clause in the band's contribution agreement that said First Nations must adhere to the numerous omnibus bills, some affecting the protection of water, that were tabled in 2012.

"This is our second year of not taking money from the federal government. We are one year ahead of everybody — we knew we could survive, and we are still pursuing and moving ahead," he said.

The ACFN has 17 businesses through its group of companies called Acden, which is short for Athabasca Chipewyan Denesoline.

"Our nation is looking at becoming a full sovereign nation in Canada," said ACFN representative Eriel Deranger. "Our business enterprises range from janitorial, catering [to] environmental and consulting firms."

Many of the contracts through Acden are related to the oilsands sector and are joint ventures with some of the largest players in industry.

"Our nation is looking at becoming a full sovereign nation in Canada." — Eriel Deranger, ACFN representative

"Yes, we are receiving money from industry, from contracts with them, but we are not in there saying, 'Dig, drill, baby, drill.' We are providing services from multiple sectors," said Deranger.

Acden says it makes about \$250 million a year in revenues, but the profits that come back to the band are

slim. So the ACFN recently started discussing other ideas to ensure prosperity for its future generations.

Setting up a trust for more self-sufficiency

The ACFN, unlike the Alberta government, doesn't get royalties or have access to tax revenue sharing. But the band has negotiated Impact and Benefit Agreements, or IBAs.

ACFN representative Eriel Deranger says her nation is looking at becoming a 'full sovereign nation' in Canada. (CBC)

In the Canadian mining sector, IBAs are described by the companies as a way to minimize the negative impacts of mining projects and to ensure local benefits. They are often binding agreements between companies and communities.

In the 1990s, the agreements negotiated by ACFN and oil companies came in the form of employment opportunities and contracts through Acden. But under the new leadership of Allan Adam, the band eyed something more.

In 2011 an IBA, similar to those signed in other provinces, was signed with the oil company Total promising a modest but steady cash flow. Band employees call it the Community Sustainability Fund.

The ACFN now has its sights set on agreements with Suncor, Esso Kearl Lake, Dover-Brion, Cenovus, Husky, Syncrude and others.

To take the prospect of self-sufficiency one step further, the band recently hatched the idea of a trust to ensure IBAs would be

beneficial to future generations.

The intention, according to the band, is to have the trust hold most or all of the money from IBAs, profits from Acden, and money from successful treaty entitlement claims.

Capital would grow over the years and the trustees would invest capital and distribute proceeds under their own community sustainability fund. The money could then go toward projects associated with health, social development, housing and culture.

Today the trust is at a draft stage, not yet presented to electors for ratification. But if it goes ahead, it's one step closer to independence.

According to band employee John Rigney, chief and council are trying to get the new trust in place as quickly as possible. He said some think it will be operation by June.

"When the trust is operating, the intent is to flow about half ACFN's share of corporate profits directly into the trust and flow about half to the ACFN government," Rigney said in an email.

"The trust will also collect more than half the proceeds of the various Impact Benefit Agreements now being negotiated. The goal is that the trust will be valued at least \$200 million in 20 years."

The complicated relationship The million-dollar question is how a community with deep concerns about the oilsands can rationalize these relationships.

"We have to consider stepping stones...we have to make the best of situations that are not

always ideal," said Eriel Deranger.

"We are really trying to create a sovereign nation that is not just independent in its community but that is creating employment and equity and recognition of the very rights of who we are as indigenous peoples, and it's not going to be just flicking on a light and everything changes. Things have to happen incrementally", she said.

The next generation of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation members is top of mind for Mike Mercredi. (CBC)

While the present task is finding ways to thrive economically, culturally, environmentally and physically, the next generation is top of mind for Mercredi.

"A lot of the industry and government people don't think in 100 years. They only think in four years of their terms," Mercredi said.

"But our elders teach us not to think like that. They teach us to think 150 years from now ... or 200 years down the line."

The students in Mercredi's Experiential Learning Initiative will trap along a line donated to the project by Dene elder Charlie Voyageur, as well as hunt, fish and gather medicines.

Mercredi says trapping and hunting as a source of income is just as important as teaching young adults about their identity as Dene people.

The pilot project will last a year, and Mercredi hopes the participants will think about how to live without oilsands money.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER UNCERTAIN ABOUT PIPELINE, LNG

It is impossible to say whether the Northern Gateway oil pipeline or liquefied natural gas projects will go ahead in the near future, British Columbia Premier Christy Clark said on Monday.

"I don't know the answer to that," Clark said when asked if Northern Gateway, an Enbridge Inc project to take oil from Alberta to British Columbia's Pacific Coast and on to Asian markets, would proceed any time in the near future.

"It's hard for me to predict the outcome."

Canada's regulators recommended on Dec. 19 that the federal government approve the C\$7.9 billion (\$7.2 billion) project, and Ottawa expects to make its decision by mid-June but it is expected to face legal challenges after that.

The pipeline is fiercely opposed by environmentalists who fear the risk of a spill and the potential for the pipeline to speed the development of Alberta's oil sands. Many of the aboriginal groups, known as First Nations, who live near the proposed route are also fighting to block it.

Clark noted former federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, hired by Enbridge to smooth over relations with aboriginal communities, has a good track record.

Separately, she said she hoped some liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects get the corporate go-ahead soon but noted: "These are

private-sector decisions and we don't control them. They are looking at their investment all around the world, from British Columbia to Mozambique to Australia to Qatar."

She added: "My job is to do everything we can in terms of the tax structure, readying the work force, making sure we're building relationships with First Nations and communities, so that British Columbia gets to the top of their list of the places (where) they want to invest. So I hope we'll see some final investment decisions by the end of the year, but I can't predict that."

Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney said proponents of the LNG projects, which would carry British Columbian gas to China and other foreign markets, had made it clear that the biggest barrier was the gap in needed skills.

The federal and British Columbia governments signed labor agreements on Monday which they said would help the LNG plans move forward.

### CHANGES RECOMMENDED FOR HEAVY OIL EXTRACTION NEAR PEACE RIVER

Following complaints that industrial emissions were causing health problems in Peace Country, Baytex Energy and other companies involved in heavy oil operations are being told to make changes to the way their plants operate.

The finding is contained in

report prepared for the Alberta Energy Regulator and released Monday, based on hearings held into the issue last January.

The odours forced seven families to leave their homes near a Baytex plant after they suffered headaches, nausea and breathing problems.

Baytex has said the emissions have no effect, but the report has found that they "have the potential" to cause those kinds of problems.

Brian Labrecque, a landowner, is pleased with the recommendations and hopes that they are implemented.

"I think it was clear to everyone that there are some very real issues here and some serious issues that need to be addressed and some regulatory gaps that need to be addressed," he said.

"And based on this report, I think it was recognized by the panel as well ... so I'm glad that they got the same message."

Plants in the area use a process known as Cold Heavy Oil Production with Sand or CHOPS where oil is pumped from the ground and stored in heated tanks, which in turn, produce emissions.

The panel found that any gas produced through CHOPS needs to be captured — the necessary technology must be in place within four months — and flaring should be reduced as much as possible.

Andrew Loosley, director of stakeholder relations with Baytex, says that his company has committed to doing or is already doing what panel has recommended

However, he says it may be a challenge to meet the four-month timeline.

"Some of the Reno-area residents are still objecting to our efforts to install those vapour recovery units or our plan to move forward to address those issues," Loosley said.

"We're committed and progressing forward and plan to do our best efforts to meet those timelines."

The panel also recommends that a "comprehensive and credible" regional air quality monitoring system be set up to study the link between CHOPS and people's health.

The panel found that the timing of complaints about odours aren't always matched with air monitoring results.

The recommendations in the report are not binding. Officials at the AER will make a formal response in two weeks.

## MANY CANADIANS POWER DOWN FOR EARTH HOUR

Many Canadians turned off their lights for an hour Saturday night as part of a global and symbolic stand against climate change.

In New Brunswick the government-owned utility NB Power tweeted a picture of its Fredericton headquarters darkened.

Toronto's CN Tower turned off all exterior lighting except for aircraft safety lights and reduced as much interior lighting as it could.

Toronto Hydro tweeted that power usage dropped by six

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per cent during Earth Hour. B.C. Hydro says British Columbians reduced the provincial electricity load by one per cent — the equivalent of turning off about 1.4 million lights.

The utility says it's the lowest figure recorded since it started measuring the event's energy savings in 2008.

Organizers say Earth Hour shows how a small act — turning off lights — can have a powerful effect when enough people carry it out.

The World Wildlife Fund is the driving force behind the annual campaign to urge people to turn their lights off for an hour on Saturday night — between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. local time in Canada.

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Australia and has since expanded to involve thousands of cities and towns across the world.

Municipalities and utilities have embraced the annual event, devoting space on their web sites to promote it.

### **KINDER MORGAN HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE EXPANSION**

National Energy Board to hear oral, aboriginal traditional evidence starting in August

The National Energy Board has scheduled public hearings on Kinder Morgan's proposed expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline system, which would triple its capacity to ship crude oil between Strathcona County, near Edmonton, and Burnaby, B.C.

The board will hear aboriginal traditional evidence in August and September. An oral hearing will begin next January. More than 400 intervenor and more than 1,200 commentators are expected to take part in the hearings, which will look at 12 issues.

They include potential environmental and socio-economic effects, as well as potential impacts on aboriginal interests, landowners and land use.

The project would add to the current pipeline network that exists in Alberta and B.C.

The final report is to be presented by July 2015.

### **MI'KMAQ PROTESTERS DELAY MARITIME ENERGY MEETING**

Energy Minister Andrew Younger target of complaints governments not consulting First Nations

Mi'kmaq protesters interrupted a meeting of the Maritimes Energy Association Monday, saying the government is not consulting with indigenous people over energy exploration.

Several women delayed a briefing Energy Minister Andrew Younger was giving to the association. Two gave their names as Starchild and White Dove and said they're from Wabanaki, a Mi'kmaq word for Atlantic Canada.

"I'm asking to be able to pray," Starchild said. She asked the audience to stand, which it did.

The protesters said energy

exploration in the region could threaten water supplies and that governments are not consulting widely enough with First Nations people.

The protesters played an honour song and offered a prayer. The women had bought tickets and stayed for more of the meeting.

Younger said the government does consult with First Nations people.

"It would have been interesting had they listened to what I had to say first, because some of the things they were complaining about, I was actually addressing," he said.

Younger said the deputy minister regularly meets with the First Nations chief responsible for energy issues.

Most consultation goes through Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK), a group also known as Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative, Younger said.

A different group of protesters spoke against fracking at the meeting and were escorted out, as they didn't have tickets.

### **WOOD GROUP ACQUIRES CANADIAN PIPELINE CONSULTANCY**

UK-based oil sector services firm Wood Group announced Tuesday that it has acquired pipeline consulting company Sunstone Projects of Calgary, Canada, for \$13 million.

Sunstone employs 70 people and generated sales of approximately \$19 million in 2013. The firm will be rebranded as Wood Group Mustang and operate within its Canadian

operations. It will continue to be led by its existing management team under Sunstone President Barry Bauhuis.

Wood Group believes the acquisition will enhance its pipeline engineering capability in Canada.

Wood Group Mustang President Steve Knowles commented in a company statement:

"The Canadian pipeline system is expected to expand to ensure access to markets for oil & gas produced in Western Canada. The acquisition of Sunstone will strengthen our ability to provide our clients with services in this area. Sunstone's capability and geographic presence are complementary to Wood Group Mustang's existing pipeline business. Sunstone has an excellent reputation for pipeline project execution and will be an important part of our Canadian growth strategy."

### **PEMBINA PIPELINE CORPORATION ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF \$600 MILLION PUBLIC NOTE OFFERING**

Pembina Pipeline Corporation ("Pembina" or the "Company") (TSX: PPL, NYSE: PBA) is pleased to announce that it has closed its previously announced offering of \$600 million of senior unsecured medium-term notes. The notes have a fixed coupon of 4.81% per annum, paid semi-annually, and will mature on March 25, 2044.

The offering was announced on April 1, 2014. The notes were



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The net proceeds will be used by the Company for the repayment of certain long-term debt of the Company upon maturity, as well as to fund the Company's capital program and for other general corporate purposes.

This news release does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the notes in any jurisdiction. The notes being offered have not been approved or disapproved by any regulatory authority. The notes have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act"), or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold within the United States unless an exemption from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act is available.

### BIOX COMMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ONTARIO GREENER DIESEL MANDATE

BIOX Corporation (BIOX) (TSX: BX) today commented on the implementation of the Greener Diesel mandate announced by

the Government of Ontario. The Greener Diesel, Renewable Fuel Content Requirement for Petroleum Diesel Fuel, regulation came into effect April 1, 2014.

"The Greener Diesel regulation provides stable and certain demand for biodiesel right here in our local market. It clearly demonstrates the value the Government of Ontario places on maximizing the environmental benefits of renewable fuels while ensuring fuel quality and compliance flexibility," said Kevin Norton, Chief Executive Officer of BIOX. "The implementation of the regulation validates the investment we made in locating our 67 million litre nameplate facility in Hamilton. The supply agreement and the inter-terminal pipeline that we completed last year with Shell Canada Limited provide us with the most efficient logistics possible to supply renewable content to one of the largest fuel suppliers in Ontario."

The Regulation was filed on the Government e-Laws website earlier this week and is expected to be published in the Gazette later this month. It requires every fuel supplier to ensure that petroleum diesel and blended diesel that is placed in the Ontario market contain bio-based diesel on an average adjusted volume basis in accordance with a compliance formula.

Once fully implemented, the

Regulation requires the use of approximately 240 million litres of bio-based diesel per annum on an average adjusted volume basis. The volume escalates over the implementation period of the Regulation. It starts at a level of two percent for the period from April 1, 2014, to December 31, 2015, and increases to three percent for January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016, and then four percent from January 1, 2017, onward.

### ANTELOPE OIL TOOL EXPANDS CEMENTING EQUIPMENT PRODUCT OFFERING WITH THE ACQUISITION OF CTE

MINERAL WELLS, Texas, April 3, 2014 /CNW/ - Antelope Oil Tool & Manufacturing Co., LLC ("Antelope") has acquired CTE Industries LTD. ("CTE"). Headquartered in Edmonton, AB, CTE was founded in 2006, and is an independent manufacturer and supplier of oilfield cementation equipment. Its products include float shoes, float collars, cement plugs and centralizers for the global oil and gas industry. CTE also provides premium threading services and supplies steel products, such as mechanical tubing and coupling stock.

Antelope is a leading manufacturer of oilfield casing and cementing products for offshore and onshore applications globally. Antelope

is backed by Intervale Capital ("Intervale"), a private equity firm which invests exclusively in oilfield manufacturing and service companies.

George Ribble, Antelope's Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We have been impressed with CTE's rapidly growing market presence. CTE has established a strong brand globally, best known for its first-class products and reliable service. Following this combination, Antelope will be able to better service our customers by offering a broader product suite."

Dan Laplante, previously President of CTE, will manage Antelope and CTE's combined operations in Canada. "Partnering with Antelope is a great outcome for CTE and its employees. We are proud to be a part of the Antelope team and look forward to working with George and his management team," said Laplante.

"CTE's brand and products are perfectly complementary to the Antelope platform. CTE presents an exceptional opportunity for Antelope to extend its geographic presence into Canada and expand its customer base. Our highly-qualified engineering team will be able to leverage CTE's existing product portfolio to develop new, innovative casing hardware and cementing solutions," added David Nemeskal, Principal at Intervale.



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