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ALBERTA NDP LEAK DRAFT OF GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED FRACKING RULES

Document shows Tories excluding public input, New Democrats say

A leaked draft of proposed rules for unconventional oil and gas developments such as fracking are an example of how the governing Tories are increasingly excluding the public from having its say.

"This government has completely abandoned its obligation to ensure the interests of all Albertans are represented in the course of deciding what parts of the province are developed and how," environment critic Rachel Notley said Thursday.

The document, dated May 30, outlines a new way to control energy development and proposes a pilot project that includes ranges of threatened caribou herds.

Bob Curran of the Alberta Energy Regulator said the document is only a plan for a pilot project.

"This is not regulatory change — it



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is a pilot," he wrote in an email. "Once the pilot is complete, we will assess it to determine how to proceed. If we decide to propose regulatory change, we will solicit feedback from all stakeholders."

Curran said the pilot is based on years of work and public input.

A presentation on the regulator's website is dated July 2013.

"It's safe to say that we presented this dozens of times across Alberta," he said.

If the pilot project becomes the new standard, companies would identify environmental risks in an

area and explain how they would manage to mitigate or avoid them.

"This approach involves identifying risks and managing them to achieve objectives, driving the accountability to those that carry out the activities," the document says.

The intent is to force companies to

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take into account other activities in an area such as forestry or agriculture. It would also allow the Alberta Energy Regulator to fine-tune requirements to the specifics of one region.

The document characterizes the change as one "from activity-by-activity regulation to the regulation of multiple activities across large areas."

Approval process rapped Critics say it's one approval process for all of a company's activities in a single region.

"If I'm a landowner, I don't even know if I'm going to have a road or a well site on my land," said Duncan Kenyon of the Pembina Institute, an environmental think-tank. "That means I can't even really tell you if I oppose this or not. Now I find out down the road there are going to be activities on my land — tough. The approval's in place."

Kenyon also points out the intent is for the policy to work in tandem with other government legislation such as land-use plans. However, none of those plans are in place.

Most are still being developed, something likely to take years. The government hopes to have its pilot program running by September.

The plan also relies on industry self-reporting on how well it's living up to its commitments.

"That's not regulating any more," Kenyon said. "That's self-regulation with auditing going on. In this kind of a sector, I'm not sure that self-regulation is a real appropriate way of doing it."

Notley said the so-called play-based regulations are being developed without any public input. Industry received a copy of the proposal June 3.

She sees it as part of a trend by the government and the regulator to narrow the scope of public input on energy development.

"We already are excluding the vast majority of Albertans, and now we're changing the well-by-well application process and replacing it with, 'Well, we're going to drill somewhere between one and 500 wells in this 500-square-kilometre area in the next 20 years. Is that OK with you?'"

NORTHERN GATEWAY OPPONENTS TARGET MPS IN LAST-DITCH CAMPAIGN

Campaign asks pipeline opponents to email opposition to 21 Tory MPs

Opponents of the Northern Gateway pipeline project in B.C. are making a last-ditch attempt to pressure Conservative MPs to reject the project.

They've launched a campaign called Enbridge21, featuring a micro website showing the portraits of all 21 Tory MPs from British Columbia on a stark black background. The website provides an email that people can send to individual MPs.

The Enbridge 21 website invites users to email B.C. Tory MPs to express their concerns with the Northern Gateway pipeline. (Enbridge21)

The message of the site suggests that if the MPs support the pipeline, they could lose their

seats in the next federal election.

"A gang of 21 MPs is casting a long shadow on the province as they decide whether they will back Enbridge or align with heroic defenders of this province," says the website.

"These 21 federal Conservative MPs and their leader James Moore have a choice, they can help defend this province from the Enbridge pipeline and supertankers or they can gamble B.C.'s future."

Nikki Skuce, with Forest Ethics Advocacy, one of the organizers of the campaign, said British

Columbia could be a deciding factor in a federal election in 2015.

"So we thought it would be important to put pressure on these B.C. Conservative MPs to make the right decision or make them feel really uncomfortable about approving Northern Gateway, if that is the way it goes."

The federal cabinet has to make a decision about the Northern Gateway pipeline by June 17.

The Enbridge project to bring Alberta oilsands bitumen to Kitimat, B.C., and then send it to Asia by



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supertanker, has become hugely controversial because of fears over the environmental effects of a pipeline rupture or oil spill along the sensitive coast line.

Skuce says, so far, more than 14,200 people have logged on to the website and forwarded the emails.

MPs confirm they are receiving targeted emails

CBC contacted the offices of all 21 B.C. Tory MPs. Of the 13 that responded to our calls, almost all confirmed they received some of these Enbridge21 messages ranging from "a few" to a "substantial amount."

Some MPs find them annoying.

A look at the proposed path of the Northern Gateway pipeline. (Canadian Press)

"I think that is exactly what we expect from the opposition," said James Lunney, the MP for Nanaimo-Alberni.

MP John Weston, whose riding includes B.C.'s Sunshine Coast, appeared to walk a finer line between his constituents and the discussions in Ottawa.

"When we talk about Northern Gateway, what I talk about is what I'm for," Weston told CBC.

"What I'm for is the jobs and the economic development in a sustainable environmental way, in a way that really represents what we British Columbians want. I think we are getting this message across to the PM and cabinet," he said.

Poll suggests pipeline may bring political fallout

But a recent poll shows the federal Conservatives could face "collateral damage" on the west coast if they do approve the project.

A Bloomberg-Nanos survey of 500 people in the province between May 27 and 31 showed 47 per cent of all respondents polled — regardless of voting preference — said they would be less likely to support local Conservative candidates if the Harper government approved the pipeline. Only 11 per cent said they would be more likely to support local Conservatives if the project is approved.

The telephone poll, conducted by Nanos for Bloomberg News, called B.C. residents at both landline and mobile phones, and was representative of age, gender and region. It has a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

"I think privately in the confines of Conservative circles they're quite worried about what's happening because those ridings could be in play," said pollster Nik Nanos in an interview with CBC. "There will be a very close election and every Conservative riding counts."

Over the next six days, the Conservative cabinet has to hash out a decision on the project. It's widely expected to approve it.

But Nanos says it could turn into a major distraction for Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the next federal election.

Delay decision, pollster suggests
"If he goes for the bright green light to approve this quickly

without a lot of conditions, this will probably be an issue that he will have to manage in terms of the political fallout," said Nanos.

Nanos thinks it would be more politically savvy for the prime minister to delay the decision.

"If he decides to say he supports the project wholeheartedly but that he would like to slow things down a bit, that would probably give him enough political cover to send the signal he supports the Northern Gateway pipeline but would like British Columbians to sort through a solution."

"Perhaps a little patience ... could pay political dividends for Stephen Harper in British Columbia."

CANADA BUILDS LNG ARMY FOR WEST COAST, MAY COME UP SHORT

The Canadian province of British Columbia is on the brink of a liquefied natural gas boom, but a shortfall of thousands of workers is imperiling billions in investment dollars.

More than a dozen LNG export terminals are being considered for the Pacific coast province, and analysts expect three to five will go ahead. They will also need hundreds of miles of pipeline and thousands of wells, which use the same fracking technology that has transformed the U.S. natural gas industry.

To meet industry needs, British Columbia has promised to build an army of workers, but competition from rival projects, an aging

workforce, and tight timelines could mean conditions are ripe for the same sharp cost overruns that cut short a similar energy boom in Australia.

Provincial workforce projections reviewed by Reuters show that the province could face a shortage of nearly 12,000 skilled workers to staff the most in-demand trade jobs at peak LNG construction. The province plans to address the gap by sharply boosting training, more than quadrupling intakes for certain trades. But it likely will still face a shortfall in some key roles.

Foreign workers could ease some of that strain, but Canada clamped down on its controversial temporary foreign worker program after a spate of recent abuses, raising the risks projects might not fill jobs quickly and easily.

Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron Corp and Malaysia's Petronas are all contemplating projects in British Columbia, but none have made final decisions on developments worth C\$175 billion (\$161.2 billion).

"I want to move a project forward as quickly as I reasonably can," Marvin Odum, President of Shell's U.S. subsidiary and a member of the Anglo-Dutch company's executive committee, told reporters at a Vancouver LNG conference last month.

"But until there's some clarity on workforce issues and labor availability, you can't make that decision."

Companies also want clarity on taxes and need to secure sales contracts before projects can move ahead.

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said Peter Dyball, founder of Pit Crew, a management consultant. "Qualifications, skills and the sector-specific experience were spread thin."

The lack of just a few skilled people at key times also proved to be bottlenecks for massive projects, he said.

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark acknowledged the risk to reporters at a recent industry event, and said her government had learned from Australia's mistakes.

"If you look at what happened in Australia - it was a mess. People walked away from billions of dollars in investment because they couldn't afford to build the facilities. It got too expensive on the labor side," she said. "We intend to avoid that."

ZARGON OIL & GAS LTD. ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd. (TSX:ZAR) (TSX:ZAR.DB) ("Zargon") announces that Mr. Jason Dranchuk has tendered his resignation as Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Zargon effective July 14, 2014 to pursue other opportunities.

"We sincerely appreciate Jason's professionalism, commitment and contributions to our company during the last 12 years and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors," said Craig Hansen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Zargon.

Zargon will initiate a search for a new Chief Financial Officer and in the

interim; Craig Hansen will assume the chief financial officer duties.

FURTHER INFORMATION Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd. is a Calgary based oil and natural gas company working in the Western Canadian and Williston sedimentary basins that has delivered a long history of returns and dividends (distributions). Zargon's business is focused on oil exploitation projects that profitably increase oil production and recovery factors from existing oil reservoirs.

In order to learn more about Zargon, we encourage you to visit Zargon's website at www.zargon.ca where you will find a current shareholder presentation, financial reports and historical news releases.

HUPACASATH FIRST NATION VS. CANADA-CHINA FIPA AGREEMENT

On a glorious day in Vancouver, an overflow crowd milled around in the lobby of the federal courthouse, passing around a bag of summer strawberries.

"I came because this issue really affects Canadian sovereignty," says Jan Slakov, who travelled over from Salt Spring Island to show her support for the Hupacasath First Nation as they bring their case against Canada. "This particular struggle offers an amazing opportunity to connect with First Nations, human rights activists concerned about rights in China and environmentalists. It felt very important to come."

At stake is the Canada-China

Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA), an investment treaty that was signed 18 months ago but sits in limbo. The deal is waiting for an Order in Council to be ratified into law. The Hupacasath, a small nation from Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, charge that provisions within FIPA -- namely jurisdiction over resource use in their traditional territories -- should have triggered the government's duty to consult with them under Section 35 of the Constitution.

June 10 was the second attempt

by the Hupacasath and their allies to claim those Section 35 rights.

Mark Hume, writing in the *The Globe and Mail*, scoffed that the upshot of a Hupacasath victory in court would force Canada into an unwieldy consultation process with all 600 of Canada's First Nations. Grand Chief Stewart Phillips, who submitted an affidavit on behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, coolly dismisses the notion that any entity, be it China or Chevron, should sidestep their duties to consult with First Nations on matters that

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affect their traditional territories. "Canada and B.C. ...can't simply bypass their legal obligations when it comes to consultation. Canada has no right to negotiate with Chinese investors over land it does not own."

It is an exhausting reality for First Nations --many of them impoverished and fatigued from interminable treaty negotiations. In the face of eroding democracy and encroaching oil and gas projects, their Constitutional rights must be constantly -- and expensively -- defended in court. "Hearings like this are just another day at the office," says Chief Phillips wryly.

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and organizational successes. CloverPoint, well known in the local tech scene as a go to solution provider for all things geospatial, will be on location (Booth #14) to show off our custom 3D mapping and visualization software - Insight™ - and the various uses and implementations for cutting-edge data visualization, facilities management, mapping, 3D, AR and space planning. User examples of Insight™ projects for oil and gas, First Nations groups, and Universities (University of Alberta and UBC) will be on display in the booth. Additionally, the CloverPoint crew will be previewing solutions for 3D mapping and visualization in mobile environments (iPad, smartphone) and exciting solutions that are built on the Oculus Rift platform.

Jeff Warwick, CEO of CloverPoint, comments on the company's rich history: "CloverPoint began operations twenty-two years ago providing geospatial/cartography/mapping services to government and private industry. From those early days with quill and compass, we have evolved through the years and expanded our service offerings by embracing technology. With an international portfolio of clients, CloverPoint has grown to provide location-based software solutions to all levels of government, and organizations operating across broad areas. We specialize in transforming conventional applications into revolutionary services through spatial intelligence. We remain on the cutting edge of software development,

exploring the rich opportunities provided by web technologies and social media to provide a deep and dynamic information infrastructure for Cloud-based Enterprise Information Management Systems....We're excited to be sharing our rich history and success stories this week in Alberta."

MORATORIUM ON GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE OIL EXPLORATION SOUGHT

St. Lawrence Coalition unites concerned voices from five provinces

against offshore oil and gas projects. A coalition that includes environmental groups, First Nations communities and fishery representatives from five Canadian provinces is pushing for a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

'One oil well blowout could destroy [the gulf's ecosystem].'- Sierra Club national director

The St. Lawrence Coalition says too little is known about the possible effects of oil and gas projects on the gulf's fragile ecosystem to

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proceed with them in its waters. A new 80-page report produced by the coalition details the current lack of reliable information on the challenges that such development would pose to the more than 4,000 species that call the Gulf of St. Lawrence home, as well as the local industries like fisheries and tourism that it sustains.

Endangered blue whales, bluefin tuna and belugas are just a few of the vulnerable species found in the gulf's waters.

No oil and gas projects should be given the green light until those gaps in our knowledge are filled, the group said.

Though there are currently no active oil and gas projects in the gulf, the coalition says seismic studies over 60,000 kilometres have been conducted and 10 exploratory wells have been drilled in the gulf to determine what deposits it may hold.

Oil spill could 'destroy' Gulf ecosystem

It's believed potential reserves in the gulf could yield more than five billion barrels of oil.

And that's enough to make the coalition's members worry.

"One oil well blowout could destroy [the gulf's ecosystem]," Sierra Club Foundation Canada National Director John Bennett said.

According to the report, the gulf presents a number of unique physical challenges that would "greatly complicate" an oil spill cleanup in the region. Currents, ice cover and cold water would conspire to potentially trap oil rather than disperse it.

Provinces need to see big picture

Five provinces border the Gulf of St. Lawrence — Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

As it stands, the coalition said each province looks at the gulf from the perspective of its own jurisdiction rather than an interdependent whole.

This perspective needs to change in order to properly understand the true effects of oil and gas development on the gulf's ecosystem.

"At the moment, several provinces have interests in the Gulf of St. Lawrence but no one talks to each other," Jean-Patrick Toussaint, a scientist with the David Suzuki Foundation and a member of the Coalition, told CBC News.

Toussaint took some hope in the Quebec government's recent decision to order a full environmental assessment of the impact of oil and gas exploration in the region.

The coalition is calling for the establishment of an arm's-length review panel to look into the future of oil and gas development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and hold public consultations on the issue.

The coalition presented its report to staff members of Quebec Natural Resources Minister Pierre Arcand's office Monday morning.

NEB SEES PRODUCTION GROWTH, HIGHER PRICES FOR NATURAL GAS

The speed and degree to which natural gas storage is refilled after

a much colder than normal winter in Canada and the United States will be key factors influencing gas markets in 2014, according to a new National Energy Board (NEB) study.

"If the storage deficit is erased through a combination of higher U.S. natural gas production and reduced gas-fired power generation, the impact on Canadian natural gas deliverability may be moderate," says the board in its energy market assessment, Short-term Canadian Natural Gas Deliverability 2014-2016.

"Higher summer temperatures could

increase gas-fired power generation because of increased air conditioning and compete with efforts to refill storage," it says. "Should the storage deficit prove more difficult to make up, natural gas prices may remain higher than in previous years and encourage more Canadian natural gas drilling and deliverability."

A key mechanism in balancing markets during the 2014 storage refill season will be power generation, according to the study, which notes that in 2013 an estimated five billion cubic feet per

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day of demand (out of the total U.S. and Canadian market of roughly 80 billion cubic feet per day) came from increased natural gas-fired power generation at the expense of coal-fired power generation.

"This occurred because natural gas prices had declined below the corresponding cost of generating electricity using coal and some coal plants were retired," it says. "Now that natural gas prices have risen to around the corresponding price level of coal (about \$4.50 per gigajoule), the amount of natural gas-fired generation that will be idled in favour of coal will help to determine how much additional natural gas can be delivered into storage."

There's also the question as to whether the natural gas market perceives the 2013-14 winter as an isolated event or as a signal of a fundamental shift in market conditions. "At this time, it seems to

be viewed as an isolated event as natural gas forward prices for 2015 in the futures market return towards prior levels," the study says. "The absence of a fundamental shift makes producers less likely to make major changes such as a return to a higher, sustained level of dry gas drilling."

The NEB market assessment examines the factors that affect natural gas supply in Canada in the short term and presents an outlook for Canadian natural gas deliverability from the beginning of 2014 to the end of 2016 in lower-price, mid-range and higher-price scenarios. The cases differ primarily in terms of natural gas prices and the corresponding levels of capital investment and drilling levels, especially Montney and Deep Basin tight gas as well as the Duvernay and Horn River Basin shale gas.

"This EMA [energy market assessment] shows again that

Canadian natural gas markets are working well," says Gaétan Caron, NEB chair and chief executive officer. "Our work demonstrates that deliverability will readily meet Canadian demand, contributing to Canada's successful pursuit of a sustainable energy future."

Natural gas supply and demand move into balance in the mid-range and higher-price cases and provide an incentive for a continued increase in liquids-rich production and even a resumption of dry natural gas drilling in the higher-price case, according to the study. In the lower-price scenario, nearly all natural gas drilling is uneconomic unless the gas has a high natural gas liquids content.

In the mid-price case, Canadian natural gas deliverability will continue to be well above Canadian demand, rising to 14.6 billion cubic feet per day in 2016 from 14 billion cubic feet per in 2013, as gas declines

in dry natural gas production are offset by rising output of more liquids-rich natural gas. Prices would increase to US\$4.35 per million British thermal units at Henry Hub in 2016 from \$3.73 per million British thermal units in 2013, while the Alberta reference price would rise to C\$3.82 per gigajoule in 2016 from \$2.83 per gigajoule in 2013.

In a higher-price case, natural gas prices would rise to US\$6 per million British thermal units by 2016, resulting in more natural gas drilling and Canadian deliverability that would increase to 15.7 billion cubic feet per day in 2016. In a lower-price case, growth in markets for Canadian natural gas would be slowed by mild weather conditions with prices remaining at or below \$4 per million British thermal units and deliverability declining to 13.6 billion cubic feet per day in 2016.

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- o Lay-down Trailer Rental (Service Rig Tubing Trailer)



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