

Draft minutes

Canadian Flaring and Venting Regulators Forum

Meeting

Date: Thursday September 22, 2011

Time: 0900 PDT; 1000 MDT; 1100 CDT; 1200 EDT; 1330 NFLD – Approx. 1 hour.

Place: Teleconference

In Attendance:

Name	Group
Kevin Parsonage	BC Oil and Gas Commission
Brad Wagner	Saskatchewan Energy and Resources
Randy Dobko	Alberta Environment
Paul Molloy	NL Department of Natural Resources
Keith Hynes	NL Department of Natural Resources
Jennifer Abel	Manitoba Innovation, Technology, Energy & Mines
Jeff O'Keefe	CNLOPB
Christy Wickenheiser	National Energy Board
George Eynon	Energy Resources Conservation Board
James Vaughan	Energy Resources Conservation Board
Jim Spangelo	Energy Resources Conservation Board
Colby Ruff	Energy Resources Conservation Board

New Action Items

	Who	Due
11-09-A: Send out ERCB Directive 060 references for extinguishing sour pilots.	James	ASAP
11-09-B: Set up a teleconference meeting with ERCB and NL Department of Natural Resources to discuss pilotless flares.	James	ASAP

1) Administration

-The meeting convened at approximately 0900 PT; 1000 MT; 1100 CT; 1200 ET and 1330 NT.

- A round of introductions was conducted.

Previous/Ongoing Action Items:

	Who	Due
11-06-A - [ACTION ITEM] Jim and Kevin to write a piece on definitions and path forward, as a first step, to bring to upper management later on, possibly at CAMPUT. Discussion to follow in September.	Kevin and Jim	Done

11-06-B: : [ACTION ITEM] – James will ask members to submit annual flaring and venting numbers to prepare National reporting on flare and vent volumes report	James	Carry Over
10-06-F: Ask NACE for permission to post presentation on CFVRF website	James	Carry Over
10-06-G: Work on Fuel, Purge, Blanket etc. gas definitions	Paul, Jim S. Kevin	Ongoing

2) Previous Action items:

- Jim, Kevin and Paul have been working on the harmonization of flare and vent definitions. The powerpoint presentation and excel spreadsheet was sent out and shared amongst members.
- The Canadian Country Implementation Plan for the GGFR needs to be updated. It currently has 2007 numbers in it. James will be asking member jurisdictions soon for the respective flare and vent numbers for 2010.

3) CAMPUT ERC Meeting in Halifax – September 25, 2011.

- James attending.
- Invitation was extended to others in the team.
- James will give an overview of the progress done to date for flare and vent definition harmonization by the CFVRF.

4) Feedback regarding Purge Gas, Fuel Gas, Flare Gas, etc. Definitions

BC – Could take a few years to change the definitions. The BC Ministry of Finance owns the report.

Alberta (ERCB) – Support to explore the harmonization of definitions.

- Not prepared to commit until there is a sense of the impact.
- What costs?
- Next steps – Chat with internal Information Dissemination and Collection (ICD) group.
- Chat with CAPP.
- What will be the impact on systems and requirements?
- Will the overall value be positive or negative?
- Possibly Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan chat with industry (CAPP).

Saskatchewan – Discussion has taken place.

- Message back is that flare and vent harmonization is totally doable.
- Sk. Wants to harmonize with the ERCB.
- Sk. Will be adopting the Petroleum Registry in April 2012.
- Sk. Wants consistency with the ERCB.

Manitoba – Willing to review the definitions.

- Need to contemplate the change.
- What are the regulations behind the revised definitions?
- Implementation, if agreed to, would be a long timeline.

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources.

- What is the utility of reporting?
- This all came originally from the GGFR.
- Want reporting consistency.
- No perceived reason why flare and vent harmonization could not be done.

Environment Canada

- Fannie emailed James and stated that EC would support the harmonization of definitions.

Discussion

- Colby – Do we need to get buy-in from GGFR on definitions?
- Jim – Separating out flare volumes would mean lots of opportunity for fuel gas conservation.
- Paul – Are there any ‘gas to wire’ examples? What would be the royalty implications?
- Jennifer – Royalty only paid on the gas that is sold.
- Brad – gas used for electricity production would be subject to a royalty.
 - o Fuel gas pays a royalty.
- Randy – If it is not the same company producing the gas in Alberta, they need to pay a royalty.
- Jeff – What is the direction going forward? CNLOPB has 3 or 4 facilities.

Harmonization of definitions to what end?

- o Acid gas concerns and guidance. CNLOPB has no problem with harmonizing definitions.
- Kevin – All reporting would be the same
 - o Harmonization helps to identify opportunities for conservation.
 - o Easier for industry.
 - o Improves the quality of the data.
- Keith – Why is acid gas not reported as flared?
- Jim – Direct stream to a sulphur plant. Once that stream is changed chemically, it should be reported as acid gas.
- Christy – No opposition to harmonization from NEB. Need consensus from the CFVRF.
- Paul – Pilotless flare – Any experience in Alberta? Is it common on sweet gas?

Action Item: James to send Directive 060 references to extinguishing sour pilots to the team.

- Manitoba – Regs are open. Must provide sufficient combustion. Must be a pilot and automatic ignition.

Action Item: James to set up a teleconference meeting with Paul to discuss pilotless flares.

Anything Else?

- Kevin – Is Environment Canada developing a flaring and venting BLIER?
- Randy – F&V BLIER was talked about, but deferred.
 - There are some issues around it.
 - Might be back on the table.
 - Stay tuned.
- Paul – Need to ask Environment Canada what impact it would have on flaring and venting definitions.
- Jim – Next steps – chat with CAMPUT ERC and gather more information.
 - Start to share with industry.
 - BC, AB and SK to sit down and chat with CAPP.

-Brad – Hydrocarbon definition – What does it include? C1 – C4? C1+?
Is it primarily methane? Does it include VOC's?

Other Business?

- Jennifer – Manitoba has offered to host the next meeting in Winnipeg in Spring 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1000 PT; 1100 MT; 1200 CT; 1300 ET and 1430 NT.