



**Canadian Petroleum Industry Flaring Regulators Meeting
Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday September 19th, 2007
07:30 – 16:00**

In attendance:

Brian Mathieson (SIR), Fred Deliencourt (NEB), Glynis Farr (BCOGC), James Vaughan (AEUB), Jeff O'Keefe (CNLOPB), Jim Spangelo (AEUB), Keith Lowdon (Man.), Michael Brown (AEUB), Paul Molloy (GNL), Paul Wieringa (BCMEMP), Randy Dobko (AEnv.), Richard Slocomb (BCOGC), Todd Paget (GNWT), Wes Foote (GNL), Yuriy Myroshnychenko (World Bank/IFC), Steve Simons (BCOGC)

Speakers:

Ross Curtis, Commissioner (BCOGC) – Welcome & Opening Remarks

Tim Lesiuk, Executive Director Climate Change Policy (Office of the Premier of BC) – Carbon Credits/Clean Development Mechanisms

0815 – 0830	Opening Remarks	Ross Curtis, Commissioner (BCOGC)
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Ross Curtis opened with welcome and general comments about greenhouse gas and the political mandates around green space and environmental upgrades.

0830 – 0845	Introductions	Richard Slocomb (BCOGC)
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Introductions around the table were made for the benefit of those who have not been at previous meetings.

0845 – 0900	Follow up items from June meeting
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- Release of Canadian Implementation Plan – update on communications plan (moved to later after ToR)
- Committee Administration
 - Discussion re: name for Committee/Association – **Motion put forth:** Association of Canadian Flaring and Venting Regulators (ACFVR) - none opposed - **{Carried}**
 - Suggestion to have a contact for outside of Canada (1 name for a focal point) to be discussed further in discussion around governance
 - James Vaughn offered to be contact - none opposed - **{Accepted}**
 - Discussion re: James Vaughn's e-mail and responses (**James e-mailed some initial thoughts on goals of the association for inclusion in the ToR**)
 - Discussion re: compiling standard definitions

Updates from the GGFR Endorsing jurisdictions

- Topic passed over due to closeness in timing of last meeting
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RESOURCE CONSERVATION

PO Box 9329 Stn Prov Gov't, Victoria BC V8W 9N3 Tel: (250) 952-0302 Fax: (250) 952-0301

Location: 6th Flr 1810 Blanshard St, Victoria BC

Headquarters: #200, 10003 110th Ave, Fort St. John BC V1J 6M7 Tel: (250) 261-5729 Fax: (250) 261-5744

www.ogc.gov.bc.ca

0900 – 1010 Charter/Terms of Reference for Committee

- Discussion Charter/ToR
 - General discussion regarding the Terms of Reference (ToR) including the roles of Chair and /or Secretary being one contact or focal point with regards to incoming queries from around the world. (Note: there was more detailed in discussion in the “Governance” section of the topic.)
 - Discussion around who is included in the association membership to be able to call the association “Canadian”. It was noted that Ontario was invited but did not send a representative. NEB is actively working on engaging Ontario and having them participate. The consensus was that it is an inclusive membership vs. exclusive with the provinces and territories to decide upon their jurisdiction’s participation.
- A copy of the ToR was put on the screen and the committee worked on it. (Note: Richard Slocomb has the working copy and will distribute it to the association members for further review).
 - Discussion & Brainstorming on details of “Mandate”
 - Mandate **{accepted as written }** – see ToR
 - *Sidebar Discussion* re: incineration vs. flaring and the responsibility for education in all areas
 - Suggestion that it should be add to the next agenda
 - Suggestion that there should be a point person for technologies (possibly more than one) to circulate information on new and available technologies.
 - Discussion & Brainstorming on details of “Goals”
 - Goals at approx 80%, members will review goals to finalize details
 - Further review of goals upon distribution
 - Discussion on “Meetings”
 - Agreement that there will be one annual meeting “face-to-face” and one via video conference (or more as appropriate).
 - Discussion on “Governance”
 - Chair (to coordinate with association, world bank and spokes person),
 - Secretary (focal point for outside contact and distribution of information to the Association) Financials? ,
 - Technical Coordinators(internal) – coordinate technical information for association,
 - Communication (coordinate external communications for association)

1045 – 1100 Communication Plan

Darin Barter (Communications AEUB) &
Steve Simons (Communications,
BCOGC)

- Conference called in Darin Barter (AEUB)
 - Discussion of where jurisdictions are at with respect to Communications planning
 - Darin has put quite a bit of time into it and is willing to connect with Steve Simons to develop a communications plan for the association
 - Discussion of Communication Plan roles
 - all jurisdictions involved
 - require all communications people to connect prior to news release
 - Timing & specifics of news releases
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- Require numbers for each jurisdiction
 - Canada vs. Jurisdiction
 - First goal is how Canada is educating 3rd world countries
 - Working with World Bank
 - Discussion re: timing and action items for Communication Plan
 - Ask all communications people to meet within a certain time period & report to association
 - Provide names of communication people
 - Committee to coordinate with James Vaughan for new numbers
 - James Vaughan will coordinate with Darin
 - Steve spoke about timing and working backwards re: timing of news release
 - Keith Lowdon pointed out their com people work the other way (i.e. bring them the numbers)
 - Timing World Bank – dependant on what we require in Canada
 - Discussion regarding where the jurisdictions at for approval re: energy plan
 - Action Items - within next month – 6 wks
 - Nothing to stop us for moving forward – prep draft and bring back to committee (Steve and Darin to meet and discuss)
 - Richard Slocomb will pass communication contacts to James Vaughan
 - Meet again via video re: numbers – agreed
 - Yuriy offered assistance from the World Bank communication specialist (Mauricio)
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1100 – 1200	Carbon Credits/Clean Development Mechanisms	Tim Lesiuk, Executive Director Climate Change Policy
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Presentation Points:

- (UNFCCC) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – Kyoto Protocol
 - Developed vs. Developing Countries (no target)
 - Flexible Mechanisms (flexibility to trade, JI – Joint Implementation {developing}, CDM – Clean Development Mechanism {developing})
 - In Canada
 - Allowing CDM projects in
 - Not allowing export of CDM projects
 - Not a strong policy on JI
 - Canadian process
 - More in depth on Kyoto (off-sets, credits, CDM) in Canada
 - Jim Spanglo – How does this relate to the ACFVR for regulations so it doesn't work against the off-set?
 - A: Current projects on flaring discussed – project registry.
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1300 – 1345	Working Session #1 – Purge and blanket gas – Is this flaring or fuel gas usage?
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- Richard Slocomb provided a synopsis of what BC has been doing re: reporting of flaring activity as it relates to purge, blanket gas and pilot gas
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- Topic clarification - require consistency in terms of reporting
 - Jim Spanglo – spoke on what they are doing in AB re: reporting
 - Discussion on differences between provinces
 - AB & BC differ in reporting for: pilot gas, acid gas, sulphur
 - Is the difference due to regulations, leg, or other – work towards common formula (+ or -)
 - Discussion on significance of differences of gases
 - Three options: Go as is, engage everyone to be more precise or somewhere in between with error bar with more scrutinization.
 - Macro, meso, micro – which is the focus
 - Is it worth it to do a project: would need to engage industry association etc. to break it out and better capture hydrocarbon going to flare
 - Reducing Acid Gas flaring via Acid Gas reduction – Norway & Denmark
 - The main question is whether or not to separate fuel gas going to flaring
 - Yuriy - Should not penalize provinces with sour gas
 - Will put in * (ask Richard to clarify) – will revisit if required
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1345 - 1420 Working Session #2 - Well test flaring thresholds

- Richard introduced concept and mentioned differences between BC & AB
 - Michael Brown clarified – do we need to tighten the numbers vs. industry not meeting the numbers indicate what they need (leeway) (what is the driver?)
 - Depends on type of reservoir
 - Is the threshold we have now good or would a lower threshold give the same viable information – does it need to be revised?
 - Are there alternative techniques that can be used?
 - Richard will look at more data to see why they keep volumes where they are
 - Suggestion - lower number to 400, get rid of top tier
 - Data must first be validated
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1445 – 1545 Optional Topic - Advice to Newly Established Regulators - Yuriy Myroshnychenko

Any other advice...

- Fred Deliencourt gave overview of legal framework in Canada
 - Jim (Michael?) gave an overview of flaring in Canada at the administrative level
 - Jeff O'K need regulatory set up first
 - Michael (Jim?) framework, enforcement, pre-defined non-compliance penalty
 - Fred gave overview of system of law but first go through different levels to have the opportunity to be heard beginning with regulator meeting with company
 - Build trust between people regulating and companies
 - Begin to ask the companies why they don't
 - Establish rules (legislation), enforce them (compliance), consequences (penalties), appeal process (credibility)
 - Industry buy-in
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- Evolution of education of newer generation
 - Politically unstable countries have shorter term goals – view reduction of flaring as a positive to build the political agenda
 - Look to what has been successful but adapt to countries regulatory framework
1. An optimal distribution of roles...environmental...
 - Make sure the environmental considerations are not the last considerations
 - Determine all considerations privately prior to public (industry) being involved to play agencies off each other
 - Organizations working together to put forth the same message
 - Work together but respect each others mandate
 - Clearly defined roles & responsibilities
 - Policy vs regulation friction, policy can change quickly whereas regulation changes slower
 - Clearly defined authority and communication between the groups
 2. Measurement...
 3. How to address information symmetry...
 4. In Canada, what are the formal mechanisms...
 5. Comparing a consent/ex-ante approval regime...
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1545 - 1600 Closing

No specific dates were set for the next meeting however, the next main one will be face-to-face as not all are set up for video yet. However, having a video conference within the next 6 weeks (early Nov.) to discuss Terms of Reference was discussed. Newfoundland has an offshore industry conference in early June (in St. John's), which could tie in with the next face-to-face meeting. They have offered to hold the meeting there.
