

3rd Annual

WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

Industry Strategies for Balancing Economic Prosperity with Environmental Sustainability



Finding a balanced approach to sustainable development is top of mind for industry as organizations work towards becoming better social and environmental stewards in water and land management without compromising their bottom line. At this year's conference you'll hear:

- Industry case studies and perspectives from Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Imperial Oil, Syncrude Canada Ltd. and TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
- The latest update on the *Land-use Framework* and Alberta's *Water for Life Renewal*
- The challenges of balancing economic prosperity with environmental sustainability
- A panel discussion from Chairs from the *Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils* in Alberta
- The latest strategies on:
 - land remediation and reclamation;
 - biodiversity risk management;
 - stakeholder management;
 - the purchase and sale of water entitlements;
 - minimizing the impact of coalbed methane and other natural gas production on Alberta's groundwater

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December 10 – 11, 2007
The Metropolitan Centre
Calgary

PROGRAM CHAIR

Richard C. Secord
Partner, Ackroyd LLP

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

**The Challenges of Balancing
Economic Prosperity with
Environmental Sustainability**

Dr. Vic Adamowicz

*Canada Research Chair
(Environmental Economics),
Professor, Department of Rural
Economy, and an Adjunct Professor
in the Department of Economics,
University of Alberta*

**Development of a Land Use
Framework in Alberta**

Morris Seiferling

*Assistant Deputy Minister
Sustainable Resource &
Environmental Management*

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Here is what attendees to past Water Land conferences had to say...

"Very educational with eye opening perspectives from all areas of the industry."

Jordan Hyshka of PHH Arc Environmental Ltd.

"Greater ability to connect more of the moving dots."

Tom Merick of Certus Strategies

Dear Colleague,

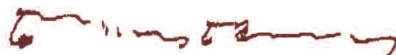
The economic boom in Alberta continues to dominate industrial and commercial activity in the province. A major concern for industry is its ability to access more and more land and water reserves for development. The strain on Alberta's water threatens to exhaust the existing supplies. On August 30, 2006, a long-term vision for managing the water supply for southern Alberta was approved by the Province through its South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB) Water Management Plan. The first of its kind in Alberta, the water management plan recommends new ways of managing water resources to help balance the needs of the environment and economy.

As part of the plan, Alberta Environment will no longer accept new water license applications for the Bow, Oldman, and South Saskatchewan sub-basins. In a February 2007 Joint Panel Report (EUB Decision 2007-013), the Joint Panel stated that it expects industry operators to participate in Phase II of the Water Management Framework and to work together to identify water management options for the Fort McMurray region. The Joint Panel noted the proponent's evidence that industry is considering sharing water, regional water storage opportunities, sequencing of filling end pit lakes to be sensitive to low flows in the Athabasca River, and ways to minimize evaporation losses. **The Joint Panel stated that water could be the factor that limits oil sands development**, and the Joint Panel supported industry putting more emphasis on strategies to decrease the overall water demand of the oil sands industry.

With the industrial boom having no end in sight, it is imperative for the government and industry to engage in a consultative framework that will facilitate the management of the risks associated with this unprecedented demand for water and land. In order to protect both public and private interests, government, industry and other stakeholders must design a long-term sustainable development resource planning strategy to serve all interests involved.

This [Insight Information](#) conference will provide a timely opportunity to learn about the strategies being developed to tackle the challenges of an over-extended demand on natural resources

We look forward to seeing you there.



Richard C. Secord
Partner, Ackroyd LLP

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

From Oil and Gas, Energy and Other Resource Sectors:

- Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Directors and Managers of:
 - Sustainable Development
 - Regulatory and Government Affairs
 - Environments, Health and Safety
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Risk Management
 - Business Development
 - Project Development

And

- Production and Exploration Engineers
- Environmental Consultants and Associations
- Hydrologists/Hydrogeologists
- Petroleum Geologists
- Environmental Lawyers
- ADR Specialists
- Corporate Counsel
- Regional and Municipal Planners
- Municipal, Provincial and Federal Regulators
- Policy Analysts
- Urban Planners and Land Developers
- Aboriginal Group Representatives
- Water Basin Councils Representatives
- Academics and Researchers

MONDAY | DECEMBER 10, 2007

8:00 | 9:00

Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 | 9:10

Welcome and Opening Remarks from Chair

Richard Secord

*Partner
Ackroyd LLP*

9:10 | 10:00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Challenges of Balancing Economic Prosperity with Environmental Sustainability

Dr. Vic Adamowicz

*Canada Research Chair (Environmental Economics),
Professor, Department of Rural Economy,
and Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics,
University of Alberta*

10:00 | 10:45

Alberta's Water for Life Renewal

Bill Berzins

*President of Fossil Water
Executive Member - Alberta Water Council*

Mark Bennett

*Executive Director
Bow River Basin Council*

Water For Life was launched in 2003 – its focus is on safe drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystem and reliable supply of water for a sustainable economy. The Alberta Water Council (AWC) is responsible for monitoring the progress of *Water For Life* and advising government on matters related to water management across the Province. Early in 2007, the AWC was asked to spearhead the renewal of *Water For Life*. The presenters will discuss:

- Highlights of the Renewal project and the preliminary feedback from Albertans, and suggest some priorities for renewal
- The status on the AWC's move to an independent organization
- Project team activities underway related to wetlands policy, water conservation, intrabasin transfers and shared governance around watershed planning

10:45 | 11:00

Networking Coffee Break

11:00 | 11:45

Biodiversity, Sustainability and Risk Management

Neil Barker

*Executive Director, Oil Sands Branch
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development*

This presentation will focus primarily on activities by Alberta Departments and Multi Stakeholder initiatives to deal with the following issues in developing the world class Alberta Oil Sands:

- Governments, regulators and industry are under increasing pressure to clearly demonstrate that the management of development is within the capacity of the natural environment
- How jurisdictions use the assessment, monitoring and management of cumulative effects to achieve these goals

11:45 | 12:30

Protecting Water, Producing Gas: Minimizing the Impact of Coalbed Methane and Other Natural Gas Production on Alberta's Groundwater

Mary Griffiths

*Senior Policy Analyst
The Pembina Institute*

This recent report, *Protecting Water, Producing Gas*, produced by The Pembina Institute, examines the basis for landowner concerns that seismic exploration, drilling wells, fracturing shallow formations and removal of water from fresh water aquifers could impact water wells. It focuses on coalbed methane production, but also covers conventional natural gas, shale gas and tight gas. The talk will address:

- Ways in which coalbed methane and other gas production may impact non-saline groundwater and government regulations to protect it
- Best management practices, which landowners can negotiate with industry
- Recommendations for additional measures government should take to better protect shallow groundwater

12:30 | 1:45

Networking Luncheon

1:45 | 2:30

CASE STUDY

Risk Management Strategies: A Balanced Approach to Sustainable Development

Calvin Duane

*Manager, Regulatory and Environmental Affairs
Horizon Oil Sands Project
Canadian Natural Resources Limited*

Environmental, social and economic issues are at the forefront of discussions on oil sands development. Balancing the issues is the heart of environmental management for an oil sands mine operation. Three key issues are paramount: land disturbance, water use and air emissions. Mitigation and management of these issues requires integration of regional cumulative effects and coordination with other oil sands developers.

The *Horizon Project* addresses the integration of these issues on a project and regional basis defining mitigation for water use, fisheries management, land management for wildlife and biodiversity.

2:30 | 2:45

Networking Refreshment Break

2:45 | 3:30

Purchase and Sale of Water Entitlements – The Future of Water in Alberta

Davin MacIntosh

Associate

Fraser, Milner, Casgrain LLP

- Impact of the *South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan* moratorium on commercial users
- Impact of Aboriginal claims and entitlements
- Issues relating to the purchase and sale of water entitlements in Alberta
- Problems with the current framework for transferring water entitlements

3:30 | 4:30

PANEL DISCUSSION

Watershed Management Plans

Panelists:

Les Gammie

Chair, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Director Quality Assurance, Epcor

Bill Berzins

Chair, Bow River Basin Council
President, Fossil Water Corporation

Andrew Hurley

Vice Chair
Oldman Watershed Council

Red Deer Watershed Alliance Representative

WPACs are preparing Watershed Plans that address Water Conservation Objectives (WCO's) and Water Quality Objectives (WQO's). The Panelists will discuss highlights of the objective setting process, stakeholder engagement and future trends around watershed planning.

4:30

Conference Adjourns

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 11, 2007

8:15 | 9:00

Continental Breakfast

9:00 | 9:15

Opening Remarks from Chair

Richard Secord

Partner

Ackroyd LLP

9:15 | 10:00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Development of a Land-use Framework for Alberta

Morris Seiferling

Assistant Deputy Minister

Sustainable Resource & Environmental Management

Alberta has the natural resources, diverse landscapes and a high quality environment that allows Albertans to enjoy a quality of life that is among the best in the world. However, the increasing pressures on our natural resources and environment from strong economic and population growth have not only strained these resources, but also our ability to manage them.

The Alberta government is developing a *Land-use Framework*, which is intended to be adopted as government policy for private and public land use in the future. The framework is being developed through a dialogue with stakeholders, municipal governments, and Albertans. The process will allow Albertans to express their views on land use management in Alberta. The government policy framework will provide a context and guidance, based on a foundation of good environmental management to achieve provincial long-term social and economic goals.

10:00 | 10:45

Insurance Solutions for Contaminated Sites

Bill Kurceba F.C.I.P./C.A.I.B.

Vice President/Business Development Leader
Marsh Canada Limited

This session will describe the risk transfer tools currently available for managing environmental risks and will provide some practical examples of where they have been used successfully.

- What business needs to know about insurance for contaminated sites

- What stakeholders need to know about the uncertainties associated with remediation costs
- How insurance can cap the costs of remediation
- How environmental insurance can help protect you from liability once you have left site
- How insurance can be used to back-up indemnities as part of M&A process

10:45 | 11:00

Networking Coffee Break

11:00 | 11:45

LAND USE SIMULATION

Exploring the Cumulative Effects of Overlapping Land Uses Along Alberta's East Slopes

Dr. Brad Stelfox

*Principal
The ALCES Group*

- Grass-roots multiple stakeholder processes
- Incorporating ecological goods and services into regional decision making
- Best practices and landscape thresholds
- Cumulative effects landscape simulation tools (ALCES)

11:45 | 12:30

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Land Management: Issues and Opportunities for the Pipeline Industry

Karen Etherington

*Senior Technical Leader – Environment
TransCanada PipeLines Ltd.*

- Land management in the life cycle of a pipeline
- Varying land management practices along a linear corridor
- Land "ownership"
- Issues and opportunities for pipeline projects on a busy landscape
- The role of land management in pipeline abandonment planning

12:30 | 1:45

Networking Luncheon

1:45 | 2:15

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Remediation and Reclamation of Site Contamination and Specified Lands

Peter Miller

*Barrister and Solicitor
Imperial Oil*

Representative

Legal Committee

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

- Understanding the processes and requirements for acquiring remediation and reclamation certificates
- Understand who is responsible for security (pre-certification) and liability (post-certification)
- How to avoid remediation and reclamation in perpetuity – how to deal with changing remediation and reclamation standards
- Other implications as a result of remediation and reclamation certificate requirement (i.e. surface rights)

2:15 | 2:30

Networking Refreshment Break

2:30 | 3:15

CASE STUDY

Achieving Greater Sustainability in Water Management and Land Reclamation

Don Thompson

*General Manager, Regulatory and External Affairs
Syncrude Canada Ltd.*

- Overview of Syncrude's social and economic contributions
- Perspective on land reclamation and site closure at Syncrude
- Syncrude's water management efforts and results
- Water monitoring approaches in the oilsands region
- Key challenges in oil sands reclamation
- Syncrude's reclamation progress and expectations for the future
- Reclamation research at Syncrude

3:15 | 4:00

Stakeholder Management: An Interest Based Approach

Gilbert Van Nes

*General Counsel and Settlement Officer
Alberta Environmental Appeals Board*

- The benefits of stakeholder consultation
- Who are your stakeholders?
- Basic Principles – communication is a two way street. Stakeholders need to know what you are planning to do. They need to be given information and they need time to process it. You then need to listen and understand what your stakeholders are saying
- Conceptual approaches to stakeholder management

4:00

Conference Concludes

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