

Fort McKay's **Air Quality and Odour Concerns**

Fort McKay First Nation, Alberta Energy Regulator and Alberta Health's Recurrent Human Health Complaint Assessment Report and Recommendations

Presentation at Oil Sands Science Symposium Calgary, Alberta November 23-23, 2016 Dr. Alvaro Pinto, Fort McKay Sustainability Department

History

- Odours and poor air quality a problem from the 1960s
- More oil sands developments has resulted in more frequent air quality
- problems
- Odours are now a normal part of community life
 Over the years the community has tried to get the problem looked at but with little success
- At times air quality in the community is so bad that residents are worried about their health and wonder if they should evacuate the community.

Poor air quality and odours should be the exception not the norm!



Recent History

- For years, Fort McKay has been complaining with the regulators and companies to better protect the air quality
- Fort McKay has been collecting its own air quality data during odour events to show how bad the air quality is at these times
- The Environment Canada Oski-ôtin air monitoring station has provided air quality data supporting the Community's concerns
- The Sustainability Department has collected information and data to support the need for action



What Fort McKay asked for?

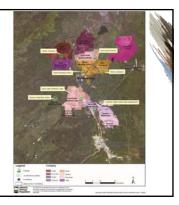
- After a significant odour event in McKay in September 2014 and no proper response from Industry, FM reached out to the AER
- In May 2015 Dr. Monique Dubé, the Chief Scientist at the Energy Regulator, initiated a formal review of Fort McKay's concerns under the AER's "Recurrent Health Complaint Process"

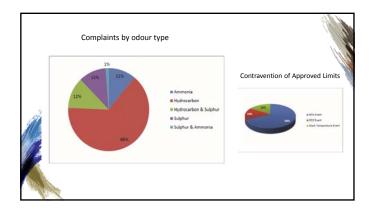
- ectives
 To assess recurring complaints
 involving human health, air quality,
 odours
 To determine the existence of
 technical gaps on understanding
 the issue
 Recommendations toward
 resolution

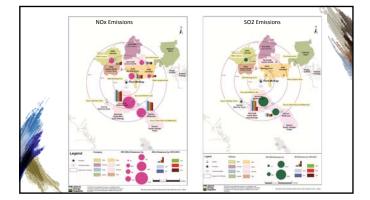


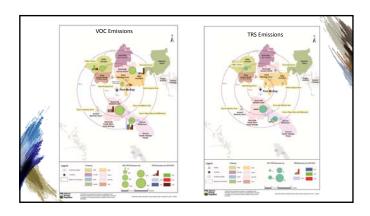
The Investigation

- Assessment of Recurrent air and odour complaints to the AER from 2010 – 2014 by FM residents and employees
- AER received 172 complaints from FM -> 165 related to odours
- Included fixed point-sources, area sources, mobile sources
- 523 Inspections were conducted at the facilities Multiple Government Agencies,
- Industry and Other Stakeholders involved including consultation with other First Nations and Metis









Recommendations

Recommendation 1 - Understanding and Responding to Bad Odour and Air Quality Events

- Additional air quality monitoring should be installed in the community for
- acute concentrations of H2S and SO2
 This Monitoring will be used to help decide what to do and what to tell community members when there is very poor air quality or strong odours in

Recommendation 2 - How to treat odour events in terms of emergency response

 The government will consider if and what odour levels will be used to trigger an emergency response action.

Recommendations (continued)

Recommendation 3 - Sharing emergency response planning information

Industry will be required to share their emergency response plans with Fort McKay

Recommendation 4 - Responding to Odour Calls and Complaints

A better approach for dealing with odour complaints will be established through an AER odour complaint response protocol specific for Fort McKay

Recommendation 5 - Connecting odour events to specific industrial sources or events

A process to determine what industrial source or incident was responsible for each odour event through a standardized checklist for operating conditions

Recommendation 6 - Measurement of odours and regulatory response

- There will be a review of ways to measure odours
 that would allow formal regulatory action if measured odour levels exceed certain

Recommendations (continued)

Recommendation 7 - Access to Oski-ôtin Air Monitoring Station Data

Industry, the Provincial Government and the Energy Regulator would like real-time access to the air quality data from the Oski-ôtin air monitoring station in Fort McKay.

Recommendation 8 - Odour complaint response and support responsibilities

The role of different groups in responding to and supporting odour complaint follow-up

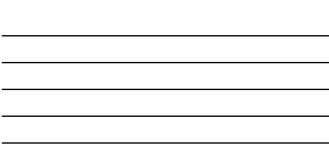
Recommendation 9 - Understanding odour and air emission sources

 A plan will be developed to identify and understand the industrial emissions affecting Fort McKay's air quality during odour and poor air quality events. (role for JOSM?)

Recommendation 10 - Controlling odour and air emission sources

- "Best practices" for odour and air emission control will be identified and a plan to have these practices implemented will be developed and implemented.
- A better approach for dealing with odour complaints will be established.





Recommendations (continued)

- Recommendation 1 Improved Odour Predictions

 The potential odour impacts of oil sands projects needs to be considered in the approval of projects.

 One of the tools used to do this is "air modelling" and improvements to this tool are required.

Recommendation 12 - Improvements to environmental approval reporting requirements and access to company reports • Air quality data reported should be more reliable and comparable between companies with

Fort McKay having better access to this information.

Recommendation 13 - Health and air quality in Fort McKay

• The potential health implications of the air quality and odours in Fort McKay will be assessed.

Recommendation 14 - Improved Regional Air Quality Monitoring

- The current regional air quality monitoring network will be reviewed and changed to better measure and track air pollutants from facilities to Fort McKay.
- and a plan to have these practices implemented will be developed and implemented.
- A better approach for dealing with odour complaints will be established

Recommendations (continued)

Recommendation 15 - The use and relationship between hydrogen sulphide and total reduced sulphur monitoring

The most appropriate type of continuous monitoring for odorous sulphur compounds will be studied.

Recommendation 16 - Dealing with pollutants that have no Provincial standard

- An approach for interpreting and using air quality data for pollutants with no provincial limits will be developed
 A better approach for dealing with odour complaints will be established.

Recommendation 17

How will the report's recommendations be

A Task Force that Fort McKay will be part of will ensure that all of the Report's 16 recommendations are implemented over the next 3 years.

- Fort McKay is working with the Energy Regulator and Alberta Health on Terms of Reference for the Task Force that will oversee the implementation of the Report's recommendations.
- Four sub-committees are planned which will develop the detailed plans for implementing each recommendation.
- Fort McKay will also have members on each of these sub-committees.
- There will also be a Fort McKay Community Focus Group established to report to, and get feedback from, during report implementation.

Conclusions

- Changes are required in government policy, environmental monitoring, communications, emergency response and how companies operate.
- Significant improvements in community and regional air quality monitoring is needed
- Improving Odour/Air Quality Complaint Follow-up
- Need to Identify and manage sources of odours
- Better assessment and management of odours as part of the regulatory system
- Developing an air quality related emergency response plan/program
- Seventeen Recommendations have to be implemented if we expect air quality in Fort McKay to improve and emergency response is adequate

Thank You!

Questions ?