



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

33rd Yukon Legislative Assembly

OPEN LETTER

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In order to further our understanding of hydraulic fracturing the Select Committee regarding the Risk and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing will be travelling to southern Alberta next week to tour a site and meet with organizations and government agencies. Our first day will see us fly to Calgary and then drive to Red Deer where we will meet with a non-government organization that facilitates communication between industry, government regulators, and affected communities. We will then have the opportunity to tour the field centre of the Government of Alberta's Energy Regulator which is tasked with regulating hydraulic fracturing in Alberta.

On the second day we will drive north of Red Deer to a well site that uses hydraulic fracturing. Once on site we will examine the key equipment, review the handling practices of the chemicals that they use, and learn about the planning and design of the procedure. We will then move on to a producing well and compare and contrast the equipment and operations of that stage of the process. Throughout the day we will be guided by staff of the company who will be able to answer any of our questions.

On the third day we will return to Calgary where we will conduct a full day of boardroom meetings. In the morning we meet with health professionals from Alberta Health Services to learn about the health impacts of hydraulic fracturing, then with officials from the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development department to learn about environmental impacts. In the afternoon we meet with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, a professor of Geology and Geophysics from the University of Calgary whose research focuses on the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater, and an organization of concerned citizens that advocate against hydraulic fracturing.

One aspect of the mandate of the Select Committee is to gain "a science-based understanding of the technical, environmental, economic and regulatory aspects of hydraulic fracturing," and we believe that this tour and these meetings will help us achieve that goal. While it was very difficult to decide which groups to meet with and how to spend our limited time in Calgary and Red Deer we believe that we have achieved a balanced schedule that allows us to hear from government regulators,

industry experts, groups concerned about hydraulic fracturing, and academics. Our full itinerary will be available online at <http://www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/rbhf.html> and we encourage anyone interested to review the list of groups we will hear from and learn about them. Anyone with questions can email rbhf@gov.yk.ca.

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