

December 18, 2007

Province orders Suncor to address excessive H₂S emissions

Edmonton... The Alberta government has ordered Suncor Energy Inc. to take immediate steps to address unacceptable levels of hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) emissions at its site near Fort McMurray.

The Environmental Protection Order comes in response to numerous occasions when ground level concentration (GLC) for H₂S exceeded acceptable standards. Suncor has also had several incidents in 2007 when the measured values of H₂S in the ambient air at stationary air monitoring stations downwind from the Suncor plant site exceeded the one-hour and 24-hour Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives for H₂S.

Alberta Environment has been actively working with Suncor since 2006 on its Ground Level Concentration (GLC) Exceedances and Emissions Management Program to minimize H₂S emissions and enhance ambient air quality.

Under the order, Suncor must continue its work on the GLC Exceedances and Emissions Management Program, and audit all process-related incidents in 2007 that may have led to unacceptable H₂S ground-level concentrations. Suncor must develop a monitoring plan to help identify sources of H₂S and other odorous sulphur compounds from the plant site by January 14, 2008.

A modeling plan for H₂S and sulphur compound emissions must be submitted to Alberta Environment by February 7, 2008. Based on the monitoring plan, the modeling plan will detail likely H₂S concentration on and off the plant site and include a worst-case consequence analysis for on- and off-site impacts.

Suncor must submit monthly written progress reports to Alberta Environment detailing the steps taken to comply with the order.

Environmental Protection Orders are issued under the authority of Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. Alberta Environment can issue Environmental Protection Orders to remedy environmental problems where there has been a release of a substance that has caused or may cause an adverse effect to the environment.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

Josh Stewart
Communications
Alberta Environment
780-427-6267
Josh.Stewart@gov.ab.ca

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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