

April 24, 2008

Council to help develop Alberta's path forward on carbon capture

Work to help industry remain competitive and deliver results on climate change

Edmonton... Alberta is moving closer to making Canada's largest contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by launching a council that will develop a roadmap for implementing carbon capture and storage.

"When it comes to implementing carbon capture and storage, Alberta has both the practical and scientific expertise," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "That experience will support the Alberta Carbon Capture and Storage Development Council in making recommendations for industry to move forward with this technology and make sure we get it right."

The council will be led by Jim Carter, the former Syncrude president, whose efforts were critical in making significant advances in oil sands productivity and environmental performance. Carter also has experience in the electricity sector, another area where carbon capture and storage could reduce emissions substantially.

"Carbon capture and storage provides the province with the greatest potential to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time maintaining Albertans' quality of life," said Energy Minister Mel Knight. "Jim Carter's experience in successfully managing complex industrial sites will be crucial in helping us build a practical plan for putting this technology in place."

The council includes representatives from different sectors including those with expertise in operating pipelines and using carbon dioxide to enhance oil recovery. The council will develop a clear work plan for implementing carbon capture and storage in Alberta, complete with timing and expectations. The council, which will report back to government in the fall, has also been asked to respond to recommendations made in January by a federal-provincial task force on carbon capture and storage.

Setting up the council was a commitment made under Alberta's 2008 climate change strategy. Under the strategy, Alberta committed to reducing projected emissions by 200 megatonnes by 2050. Expert analysis indicated carbon capture and storage would account for 139 megatonnes of the total reductions.

"There is growing awareness in Canada and around the world about the importance of this technology and how it could work," said Environment Minister Rob Renner. "However, this isn't going to happen with good ideas alone. This council is about matching those ideas with the people that have proven experience in translating ideas into action."

The technology involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources and transporting them by pipeline to sites where they are injected into deep rock formations for permanent storage. Alberta's energy industry has been injecting carbon dioxide into depleted oil fields to enhance oil recovery for more than 20 years.

Ensuring Alberta's energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way is one of the government's five priorities. Implementing carbon capture and storage research and demonstration projects is a key initiative in Energy Minister Knight's mandate letter.

To learn more about carbon capture and storage, please visit www.energy.alberta.ca (click on Key Initiatives tab). For more details on Alberta's 2008 climate change strategy, please visit www.environment.alberta.ca.

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Attachment: Biography of Jim Carter and names of council members.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Members of the Alberta Carbon Capture and Storage Development Council

The Alberta Carbon Capture and Storage Development Council is a partnership between governments, industry and scientific researchers. Members were chosen for their proven track record of translating ideas into strategic action plans.

Chairman

Jim Carter, former president Syncrude Canada Ltd.

Mr. Carter was Syncrude's president for 10 years and its operations chief for 18 years. Under his leadership, Syncrude made significant advances in productivity, environmental performance and building stakeholder relationships, especially with First Nations. He serves on the boards of EPCOR Inc., Finning International Inc., Clark Builders and the Alberta Research Council. As a former chairman and director of the Mining Association of Canada, he championed an initiative designed to help improve the mining industry's environmental and social performance.

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Len Webber, Parliamentary Assistant, Alberta Energy

Peter Watson, Deputy Minister, Alberta Energy

Jim Ellis, Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Michael Horgan, Deputy Minister, Environment Canada

Cassie Doyle, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada

INDUSTRY

Don Lowry, Epcor

Roger Thomas, Nexen Inc.

Steve Williams, Suncor Energy

Bill Andrew, Penn West Energy Trust

Dave Collyer, Shell Canada,

Kathy Sendall, Petro-Canada

Art Meyer, Enbridge

Randy Eresman, EnCana

EDUCATION, RESEARCH

Dr. Mike Percy, University of Alberta

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