

January 27, 2011

Experts selected to lead oil sands monitoring

Edmonton... Twelve independent experts from across North America have been chosen to help create a world-class environmental monitoring system for Alberta's oil sands.

"I am committed to ensuring we have a robust, credible, and transparent environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system in the province, beginning with the oil sands region," said Rob Renner, Minister of Environment. "This extremely accomplished group of individuals, who have significant experience and wide-ranging expertise, will deliver on this important initiative."

Leading the panel as co-chairs are Hal Kvisle and Howard Tennant. Both have extensive leadership experience. Kvisle is the former president and CEO of TransCanada Corporation, and Tennant is the former president and vice-chancellor of the University of Lethbridge. The remaining panel members represent a broad range of expertise from the scientific, academic, public administration, regulatory, and health fields.

"Albertans value and respect the extraordinary natural environment of this province, including the Athabasca River basin," said Kvisle. "This panel is committed to creating a system to measure the environmental impacts of oil sands activity in a professional and transparent manner."

A world-class monitoring system requires appropriate governance and validation, credible data analysis from a science authority, transparent reporting via an information panel, and an exceptional physical monitoring network. The panel will focus on all of these aspects, as outlined in its terms of reference released in December.

Recommendations will be provided for a first-rate environmental monitoring system in northeastern Alberta that spans across all areas - air, land, water, and bio-diversity - and how such a system can expand throughout the province. The experts will also take into account the work and findings of the federal oil sands advisory panel, the joint government team now examining surface water quality monitoring, and the provincial data review currently underway.

The panel will report back to the Minister of Environment by June 2011.

-30-

Background: Panel member names and biographies

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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780-427-6267

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Panel member names and biographies

All individuals selected for the environmental monitoring panel have a significant amount of experience and a broad range of expertise.

Co-chairs

Mr. Hal Kvisle

- More than 30 years of demonstrated leadership experience. Former president and CEO of TransCanada Corporation. Board member of the Bank of Montreal, Talisman Energy and ARC Resources. Serves as vice-chair of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Dr. Howard Tennant

- Former University of Lethbridge president and vice-chancellor. Serves on several public and private sector boards including three terms on the governing board of the National Research Council.

Health / epidemiology

Dr. Warren Kindzierski

- Professor at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health. Former head of chemical risk assessment for Alberta Health and Wellness. Expert in air quality and health impact assessment.

Dr. David Williams

- Respected environmental consultant with 35 years of experience. Specializes in human health and environmental risk assessment and in the development of regulatory standards and guidelines.

Science

Dr. Gregory Taylor

- Biological science professor and dean of science at the University of Alberta. Research focus includes how plants tolerate stresses such as metal toxicity and nutrient deficiency.

Dr. Helen Ingram

- School of Social Ecology professor at the University of California-Irvine. Specializations include public policy and environmental resource management.

Dr. Joseph Rasmussen

- Professor of biological sciences at the University of Lethbridge. Canada Research Council Chair in aquatic ecosystems. Research includes impacts of heavy metals and mining practices.

Dr. Andrew Miall

- Professor of geology at the University of Toronto. Specializes in the study of sedimentary basins with a broader interest in energy and climate-change issues. Former President,

Public administration / risk / economics / systems thinking

Dr. Joseph Doucet

- Energy policy economist in the School of Business at the University of Alberta. Leads specialized natural resources MBA program and the Centre for Applied Business Research in Energy and Environment.

Dr. Ron Wallace

- Respected scientist and environmental consultant with experience in environmental research and oil sands mining. Managed major projects, including the Alberta Acid Deposition Research Program and the Alberta Southwest Medical Diagnostic Review Program.

Regulatory / government / industry

Mr. David Pryce

- Vice president of operations for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. Member of the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute board of directors and the Alberta Water Research Institute Management Advisory Board.

Mr. Bruce Carson

- Executive Director, Canada School of Energy and Environment. Former senior policy adviser to Prime Minister Harper.

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