

Natural Resources Committee

Mandate

Alberta's future economic growth and prosperity will depend in large part on the ability to remain competitive in an increasingly global energy marketplace. The Natural Resources Committee recognizes that an effective policy environment encourages investment and stimulates economic growth. The group is committed to maintaining and enhancing Calgary's position as a world leader within the energy industry.

2007 – 2008 Committee Focus Areas

- Royalty Review
- AEUB Split and Bill 46
- Plans for Nuclear Energy in Alberta
- Alternative energy (biofuels, wind)

Summary of Previous Year's Work

To commence the year, the Committee reviewed the Provincial Royalty Review Panel Report, *Our Fair Share*, and helped to develop the Chamber's response.

Later in the year, the Committee concentrated on various aspects of the electrical system, focusing mainly on a Bill 46, a piece of Alberta legislation governing the break up of Alberta Electricity and Utilities Board into the Alberta Utilities Commission and the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board. The Committee submitted a letter to Energy Minister Mel Knight recommending principles to which the legislation should adhere.

The group was also responsible for three resolutions submitted to the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. The first, *Competitive Energy Policy*, recommended making the regulatory process less cumbersome by enabling co-jurisdictional panels to speed up approvals and eliminating duplicative reviews. Next, a resolution titled *Clean Coal* proposed continued investment in the research and development of clean coal technology, and continued encouragement of clean coal projects. And finally, *Harmonizing Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollutants* supported the notion of the harmonization of regulation across Canada, revenue neutrality carbon costs, and use of financial and/or tax incentives to encourage greenhouse gas reductions through technological advancement.

In addition to the regular meetings of the Committee, the group hosted the Hon. Gary Lunn and communicated their concerns regarding climate change policy at the federal level. Also the group met with Alberta's Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, Ted Morton, to discuss the province's new Land Use Framework. In June, the group met with Alberta

Environment Minister Rob Renner about climate change policy. Renner commended the Chamber for its work on the climate change issue in his keynote address.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 2007	The Hon. Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, Canada	Climate change policy
October 2007	Joe Anglin, Lavesta Landowners Group	Bill 46 and the 500 kV line
November 2007	Jeff Nish, Alberta Electric Systems Operator	Bill 46, 500 kV line, Calgary supply/demand, and the role of AESO
December 2007	Leigh Clarke, AltaLink	500 kV line
January 2008	The Hon. Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta	The Land Use Framework
January 2008	Anne Denman, Acting Director, Electricity Section, Alberta Energy	Bill 46 and Alberta's electrical system
February 2008	Duane Bratt, Mount Royal College	Nuclear Energy in Canada
March 2008	Eddy Isaacs, Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI)	AERI's priorities
April 2008	David Huggill, Canadian Wind Energy Association	Wind power in Alberta
May 2008	Jim Ellis, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment	Alberta Environment's Priorities
June 2008	The Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Environment	Climate change, and cumulative effects management
June 2008	James Cran	Carbon contracts