



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Counties seeking Government Support with EUB Representation

Parkland County is one of 13 rural municipalities requesting support from the province for representation on the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB).

During a recent meeting, the Pembina Zone members of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C) supported a Parkland County resolution requesting the Government of Alberta set a process that allows a local municipal government to appoint a member to the EUB for decisions requiring hearings for any facilities in the municipality requiring EUB approval. The resolution will be presented at the annual AAMD&C fall conference. If the resolution receives support at the fall conference, AAMD&C will forward it to the province for response.

“Residents are concerned about their safety and their children, especially in close proximity to elementary schools and the inability to evacuate in a timely manner in response to a potential leak, discharge, flaring or blowout at a sour gas well, pipeline or facility,” said Parkland County Deputy Mayor Pat Brennan. “Currently, the municipality feels helpless and has no say in helping protect the safety of its residents.”

Municipalities currently are not allowed intervenor status on behalf of their residents, according to the EUB, because they do not have the same standing as individual citizens. Through this resolution for a local, municipal appointed representative that would be chosen

by the EUB to help rule on sour gas well applications, the local residents affected by the proposed well would have some additional representation and a more direct link to the approving body making the decisions. This would also apply pipeline and power transmission line facilities within municipalities requiring EUB hearings and approvals.

Parkland County Council sees this as a positive step forward, not only on behalf of local residents, but those in the other supporting municipalities in the region, include Brazeau, Leduc, Sturgeon, Yellowhead and Westlock Counties, as well as Lac Ste. Anne, Wetaskiwin and Thorhild.

“Individually we need to address this problem and collectively we can find the means to do it,” said Parkland County Mayor Phyllis Kobasiuk. “This is one of the many benefits of having strong regional collaboration among municipalities.”

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