

A SUBMISSION TO THE EUB

RE: PETRO CANADA, SULLIVAN FIELD.

FOR: THE PEKISKO GROUP

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I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the chance to say my few words as they apply to the current situation. Policy on all levels in Alberta has been clearly designed to promote the development on the oil industry. (1) The desire to profit from supplying resources to the population and its infrastructure carries us to face the interaction between proximity and continuity. The two most complicated systems on Earth are human society and Nature. Nature will survive what ever foolishness we dream up to throw at it, it is just the form it survives in may not be compatible to human life. Infinite demands on finite landscapes equals deficit financing on a grand scale. We need to balance opportunism with greed as our technology has amplified our power inside the ecology. (2) Construction of this project will only add to the convergence of chaos. (2) As Paul Hawken points out, “There is not one living system that is stable or improving”. (2) Our planet is seamless: every impact is carried forward. (2) The corner stone here is that from here forward growth will reduce the quality of human life. We are loosing the carrying capacity for a happy, healthy human population. (2)

I have been raised as a ranch kid. We lived in a world of action and reaction. If you kicked the milk cow, she kicked back. It is in sum total what I call the Rules of the World. These rules are simple in that if” you jump in the lake you get wet”. These days if you jump in the lake you want a four wheel drive survival suit to save your backside. We developed a respect for the natural balance of day to day life and the ability it has to repeat its performance every year.

The first experience I encountered that was counter to my childhood experience was the burning of the gas cap on the Turner valley Oilfields. My first memory was in the 1950’s when I could read a paper at night by the light of the flares. It was a bit weird as to how all this light could be wasted at Longview and I could not even leave one bulb unattended at home. We had wind driven thirty two volt power then. I later lived for two years in Longview to go to school there and I lived with the gas lines lying on top of the ground, heaters in every house, even the outhouses in some cases, and the gas was free. I was given a tour of the British American Refinery just east of Longview and the cooling towers down by the High Wood River. I stood beside the twenty foot flare that ran for likely twenty years at the BA refinery and it burned only refined propane. I even climbed the last wooden derrick in Longview. It was 88 feet tall according to a tag on the top, and blew over a month later. I swam in the Turner Valley Plant swimming pool that was heated by the radiators on the compressor engines.

That was then and this is now. When Petro Canada undertook a seismic program on the west side of the Chain Lakes in 2003 and announced their intentions, every affected land owner signed a letter on Dec. 8th 2003. (See attached) (3) The project was abandoned.

The expansion of wildlife in the ranching area is in reaction the pressures in the green zone that are forcing animals out onto the white zones. White Zone lands are used by Agriculture and as a natural consequence more human wildlife interactions occur. I sent out a brief set of questions to about sixteen neighbours about the role of wildlife in their ranching operations. (4) (See attached) The results are interesting! I will present them here very briefly.

One hundred percent of respondents reported an increase in the numbers of wildlife that were incorporated in their ranching operations. Many commented that at no time in their history had they or their relatives seen these numbers. This is consistent with the experience on my ranch as we graze portions of the Bow Crow Forest and that was the only location we have ever seen grizzlies Wolf attacks were common in the 1890's and if you had colts you had to keep them by the buildings.(5)

The range of animals includes grizzlies, wolves, cougars, elk and less uncommon residents like Mule and Whitetail deer. Wolf attacks are up; bear confrontations are up, livestock deaths are up from wolves, as are cougar attacks on people and family dogs. Several ranches have been forced to not over winter their calves because of very high wolf pressure. Into this array Petro Canada is not just putting in a simple pipeline, it is creating another ripple on the pond that will reverberate down the communities, the habitat and the health of the area and further disturb what is left of the Front Range. If Alberta will not require works such as these to fall under the planning and land use options, then those options are not effective in the face of oil industry pressures.

If we are loosing the carrying capacity for wildlife populations we must at the same time be aware that our actions today will be reflected forward to the generations of people that are going to follow our lead. The complexity of the Eastern slopes is purely a reflection of the past. We must therefore look at ourselves and decide who we are and as a result of our numbers what our relationship is to the planet – our only home. We are supporting our numbers by using the ancient sunlight that was stored some three to four hundred million years ago. We are taking fossil carbon and turning it into human bio-mass. (2)

We have a problem with the bridge across the chasm between policy and public opinion. It is called Government. (2) We must somehow allow laws to come into existence that will allow Nature to be treated as more than property. Economics is a sub-set of the biosphere after all and the sub-set of economics is the economy. As the economy expands it encroaches on the biosphere. This is the opportunity cost of economic growth. Ray Anderson said. "For every truckload of lasting product, we dump thirty two loads in the land fill. We cannot afford to dig up the earth and turn it into waste. We need to be aware that infrastructure of the oil and gas industry interrupt continuity by proximity Ask the Boreal Forest, ask Suffield or for that matter ask the grazing reserves north of Lomond.

The opportunity in all of this is that we have the option of re-imagining the future. The picture of the future will be made up of a vast array of solutions, pixels if you will on a larger picture. (2) To keep the Sullivan gas from disrupting the Eastern Slopes is one

pixel in the future of survival. This could be the first step in recognizing that the world has to change, and policy is changing with it.

The Eastern Slopes are carrying a full load now. We have all the forces listed above interacting with the natural systems that I was a part of as a kid. We have a lot more large carnivores because this is the only place they have left to go. We have fescue grasslands because they have been protected from seismic programs and country residential and as a result when the animals arrived looking for the last place they had to live: there was still a place to call home. The interaction of Chinook winds, public policy on lease lands and a thousand other small facts have protected a relic; a relic that is showing why it matters as time goes by that it still exists. Let's not tear up this piece of land that still works to support life and magnify purity just to throw thirty two truck loads in the dump so we can call the one load left --- wealth.

REFERENCES:

1. Personal experience and discussion.
2. The 11th. Hour, Leonardo DiCaprio, ISPN – 1-4198-6131-X
3. Letter to Mr. John Kirkhoven, December 8th 2003.
4. Questions and results summary wildlife survey. Attached.
5. Personal conservations.