

Update on Hydraulic Fracturing Review

Committee members continued to meet regularly, with emphasis on interviews with select regulators of the petroleum-producing Canadian provinces and American states. The interviews are part of the jurisdictional regulatory review being completed by the external consultant. Committee members participated in the interview portion of the review to learn first-hand the experiences of other jurisdictions and to ask questions pertinent to Nova Scotia's review of hydraulic fracturing.

The consultant will examine reviews, issues, regulations or proposed regulatory changes from each jurisdiction. When the jurisdictional review is complete, the information will assist in identifying regulatory best practices and developing the key findings of the committee's report. The jurisdictional review report will be released as an appendix to the committee's report.

The committee also continued to validate the research and analysis of potential environmental impacts. Individual committee members applied their areas of expertise to focus the findings related to the review's scope. As the information was validated, it was forwarded to the technical writers for inclusion in the final report. The committee is identifying external experts to further validate the analysis of the committee's findings.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) released new hydraulic fracturing operating practices designed to improve water management and water and fluids reporting for shale and tight gas development across Canada. The standards were developed in collaboration with CAPP member companies. CAPP indicated the operating practices are part of industry's continued efforts to ensure responsible resource development and protection of water resources. The six operating practices outline industry's support for minimum requirements related to fracturing fluid additive disclosure; fracturing fluid risk assessment and management; baseline testing of groundwater; wellbore construction and quality assurance; water sourcing measurement and reuse, and fluid transport, handling, storage and disposal. Compliance with the operating practices is voluntary. The laws and regulations of specific jurisdictions outline minimum mandatory activities. For more information, visit CAPP's web site at www.capp.ca (<http://www.capp.ca/>) The operating practices follow the release of industry guiding principles in September 2011.