

Policy Name

Sour Oil and Gas Applications

Policy Number

ADM - 9



Policy Statement

Brazeau County has limited jurisdiction in the review and approval of sour oil and gas applications. For example, Section 619(1) of the Municipal Government Act reads as follows:


“A licence, permit, approval or other authorization granted by the NRCB (Natural Resources Conservation Board); or AER (Alberta Energy Regulator); prevails, in accordance with this section, over any statutory plan, land use bylaw, subdivision decision or development decision by a Subdivision Authority, Development Authority, Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, or the Municipal Government board or any other authorization under this part.” Brazeau County should therefore not provide input, comments or to attend hearings on sour oil and gas applications unless the application is referred to Council by a member of the public or a County Councillor.

Policy

- (1) County Council, if requested by a member of the public or a County Councillor, to provide input or comments or to attend a hearing on a sour oil or gas application, should determine their position based upon the safety of their citizens as required under Section 3(c) of the Municipal Government Act (the purposes of a municipality are to develop and maintain safe and viable communities).
- (2) Although technical considerations of the application are important, these details are outside the expertise of Council or Administration.
- (3) The circulation of general resident information packages and other application correspondence by the oil and gas industry will continue to be reviewed by Administration. Copies of any sour oil or gas applications or correspondence are to be copied to Councillor mail boxes. These items will be left on file until drilling is completed and then destroyed.
- (4) Letters of support for sour oil or gas applications will not be issued without Council approval.

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- (5) Administration will not sign off on any sour gas or oil information packages, applications or any other document that refers to technical approval.
- (6) All applications that have sour gas over a certain level must be reviewed by Council before Administration may approve or send away a response.
- (7) Emergency Response Plans forwarded by the oil and gas industry will be reviewed by Administration to the level of expertise available and kept on file for the time limit specified by the AER.
- (8) Administration will respond to requests for road construction, pipeline crossing agreements, setback agreements and any other related approvals that are within the County's jurisdiction.
- (9) Administration will respond to non sour oil and gas applications affecting County owned lands, leased lands or lands otherwise controlled by the County.
- (10) If a member of Council or the public request that a sour oil or gas application be referred to Council, Administration will place such a referral on the next council agenda. In the interim, Administration will inform the AEUB and the applicant affected that Council will be reviewing the application at the next Council meeting and will follow up after that meeting.

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