
De : L Bracken <address removed>

Envoyé : 19 octobre 2008 14:24

À : comments@SuffieldReview.ca

Objet : Registered opposition to "EnCana Shallow Gas Infill Development Project in the Suffield National Wildlife Area"

Lisa Bracken

<contact information removed>

October 19, 2008

I am writing to respectfully ask the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's *Suffield Review Panel* to please reconsider allowing EnCana to in-fill develop Canada's Suffield Wildlife Area. This letter is intended to register my opposition to the "*EnCana Shallow Gas Infill Development Project in the Suffield National Wildlife Area*", as well as share some of our experiences with this company and its destructive environmental practices.

I am writing as an American, from Colorado. I am a landowner, a mineral owner and an Independent voter – tending toward a moderate blend of both liberal and conservative viewpoints. I also consider myself a conservationist. I live on 60 acres dedicated to wildlife habitat – which is unfortunately, in the midst of EnCana's pursuit of massive, aggressive natural gas development.

In the six years since EnCana has been in our small neighborhood of mostly rural 35-200 acre ranch-ettes and rugged, remote, wetlands canyon country, I've seen rushed, irresponsible development which has contributed to fluid spills, Earth tremors, emission releases and gas seeps of various sizes in various locations. Finally – in April of 2004 – their irresponsible activities culminated in a massive blowout of an estimated (and acknowledged) 115 million cubic feet of raw natural gas as well as associated fracing fluids and CO₂ gases into the fragile wetlands area of West Divide Creek and surrounding environment. This event resulted in the largest fine ever imposed by our state's regulating agency – the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission [COGCC].

Although this devastating seep continues to this day, it has not diminished EnCana's relentless and heedless pursuit of gas production, or the COGCC's support of their efforts. EnCana is currently half-way through the development of 60 new wells, all of which will reside within an approximate mile of our home and region of the on-going seep.

On June 30th of 2008, I found evidence of a new seep in West Divide Creek, which coincided with EnCana's renewed work on the 'Schwartz' well (the well previously found responsible for the massive and on-going seep from 2008). EnCana has yet to

express an interest in, show any concern for or accept any involvement in this event, choosing instead to, in effect, hide behind the skirts of the COGCC – which has also refused to take the seep seriously, only in recent days collecting surface samples and still refusing to examine groundwater near the seep event. The scope and impact of the latest seep remains unknown, but most of the wildlife have left the area, many cottonwoods and other trees have completely defoliated and large regions of dead ground vegetation continue. Dead birds, crawdads and other animals have been recovered from the area as well. This latest seep event, the 2004 seep event and on-going development are chronicled in my website: journeyoftheforsaken.com

Here in Colorado, largely because of federal law, landowners are at the mercy of what is ideally a knowledgeable and responsive regulatory state agency to protect the interests of public health and environmental integrity. Within the purview of our regulatory agency, we have, however, seen a lack of proper oversight, incomplete investigations and a random application of policy and protocol by the COGCC – an agency vulnerable to corruption primarily due to the proliferation of personal and subjective assessment on the part of environmental specialists when environmental degradation occurs; poor and unenforced policy; improperly delegated jurisdictions and conflicting mandates of public health and wildlife on the one hand and the pursuit of gas development on the other.

The potential for corruption within energy oversight agencies is world-wide, and by design. Given EnCana's persistent environmental record of devastation, nurtured by a corporate culture of indifference and disregard... in America, in Canada, in Ecuador... I urge you to reconsider allowing in-fill development within the Suffield.

Canyon-land geologic outcrops and wetland areas are especially prone to seeps - particularly when the practice of hydraulic fracturing is utilized in the development of natural gas production.

I've had the privilege of visiting the Western region of your lovely country, and have seen its extraordinary and powerful landscapes, unique in habitat and species. As our international resources of water, wildlife and sustainable habitats grow increasingly threatened, displaced and destroyed – please consider the value the Suffield represents to future generations of Canadians, and protect it from those who stand to do it harm without concern for such values.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration of my concerns.

Lisa Bracken