

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ALBERTA – BRITISH COLUMBIA PROTOCOL FOR ENERGY COOPERATION and REGULATORY HARMONIZATION

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING executed on the ___ day of _____, 2004

BETWEEN:

ALBERTA MINISTRY OF ENERGY
as represented by the Minister of Energy
(hereinafter called “Alberta”)

and

British Columbia **MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES**
as represented by the Minister of Energy and Mines
(hereinafter called “British Columbia”)

WHEREAS Alberta and British Columbia (hereinafter called “the Provinces”) share mutual interests in streamlining, harmonizing and adopting regulatory best practices for oil and gas industry regulations between the Provinces with the overall goal of a more effective and efficient regulatory environment.

WHEREAS the Provinces share mutual interests in a single authoritative source of infrastructure and volumetric information for all stakeholders in the Provinces.

WHEREAS the Provinces share mutual interests in cooperating to advance economic development through a coordinated Northern Energy Development and Transportation Strategy that facilitates new markets for Alberta and British Columbia oil and gas producers.

Alberta and British Columbia therefore agree as follows:

1 PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PROTOCOL

1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to confirm the commitments between the Provinces to work with energy ministries and regulatory agencies to streamline, harmonize and mutually adopt regulatory best practices regulations between the Provinces.

1.2 Streamlining, harmonizing and mutually adopting regulatory best practices will produce a more effective and efficient regulatory environment. This will result in greater regulatory certainty and sustained investment in energy development in the Provinces.

2 SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

Alberta and British Columbia will work cooperatively in a number of areas including, but not limited to, the following:

2.1 Oil and Gas Industry Regulations

The Provinces will work cooperatively to streamline and harmonize regulations, and mutually adopt regulatory best practices, where appropriate, in areas that have a material impact on oil and gas exploration, development, production, processing and transportation.

2.2 Petroleum Registry of Alberta

The Provinces will work together to accelerate a commercial arrangement for adoption and implementation of the Petroleum Registry of Alberta within British Columbia.

2.3 Northern Energy Development and Transportation Strategy

The Provinces will cooperate to present common interests and desired outcomes through a coordinated northern energy development and transportation strategy. This coordinated strategy will not interfere with existing constitutionally defined jurisdictions or endorsed consultation processes, but act to ensure that the interests of the Provinces are clearly articulated and communicated to governments, industry, and stakeholders.

2.4 Electricity Markets

The Provinces will cooperate to identify and resolve issues to ensure open and transparent access to each other's electric transmission systems and markets.

3 COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 The Provinces will meet and agree on Steering Committees, to be staffed by an Assistant Deputy Minister, and Work Plans supporting specific areas of cooperation. The Steering Committees will be responsible for outcomes in the areas of specific cooperation.

3.2 The Steering Committees will direct working groups to carry out specific activities ensuring that progress is achieved.

3.3 The Steering Committees will report at the following joint Cabinet meeting on the outcomes, progress, impediments and required direction.

4 DURATION

4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect upon signing by both parties and will be reviewed annually.

4.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect for a period of Five (5) years or until terminated by either party with Six (6) months written notice.

5 AMENDMENTS

5.1 Any provision set out in this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or waived by way of the written, mutual agreement of both parties.

Signed

The Honourable Richard Neufeld
Minister of Energy and Mines
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Murray Smith
Minister of Energy
Government of Alberta

DATED

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