

Science & Community Environmental Knowledge Fund

Engineering and Technology Envelope

Background

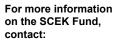
The purpose of the Engineering and Technology envelope of the SCEK Fund is to promote research associated with engineering and technological innovations that minimize the impacts of oil and gas activities on the environment and communities. It supports projects that focus on:

- Reducing and managing emissions to air, land and water
- Rehabilitating land and water bodies disturbed by oil and gas activities

Areas of Interest:

- Facility and well test flaring impact and overall reduction in quantity
- Disposal and clean up of wastes and contaminants
- Rehabilitation/reclamation of disturbed lands
- Pipeline integrity management (downstream and upstream)
- Greenhouse gas reduction at source and via sinks

The Engineering and Technology envelope of the Fund is one of five funding envelopes within the program. The other four envelopes are Health and Safety, Ecosystem and Cumulative Impact Management, Education and Extension, and Community Environmental Knowledge.



Oil and Gas Commission 200 – 10003 110th Avenue Fort St. John, BC V1J 6M7 Ph: 250-261-5700 www.ogc.gov.bc.ca





Current portfolio of projects

| Title | Proponent | SCEK Investment | Status |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Acid Gas Sorption by British Columbia Coals: Implications for Permanent Disposal of Acid Gas in Deep Coal Seams and Possible Co-Production of Methane. | University of BC | \$239,200.00 | Anticipated completion by May 2004 |
| Application of High Resolution Mesoscale Model Fields with the Calpuff Dispersion Modeling System in Prince George BC | University of Northern BC | \$31,113.77 | Completed October 2002 |
| Research on the Applicability of Modeled Site Specific Meteorological Data to Well Test Flaring Assessments in BC | Levelton Engineering Ltd. | \$49,286.56 | Completed September 2002 |
| Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Heliportable Drilling Feasibility Study | Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and TERA Environmental Consultants | \$43,049.00 | Completed June 2002 |
| Soil Productivity and Forest Regeneration Success on Reclaimed Oil and Gas Sites | BC Ministry of Forests, Kalamalka Research Station | \$58,000.00 | Completed April 2003 |
| Interactive Development and Research into Abandoned Wellsite Reclamation; Cumulative Impact Study on the AAC; and, Development of Results and Performance Based Systems | Monashee Resources Limited and the BC Ministry of Forests | \$195,000.00 | Year 2 of 3 anticipated completion March 2005 |
| Demonstration of the Applicability of the Maxxam All-season Passive Air Sampling System to the Management of Hydrogen Sulfide in Northeast BC | Maxxam Analytics Inc. | \$27,645.00 | Completed June 2002 |
| Sustainable and Eco-Efficient Technologies: Economic Greenhouse Gas Reducing Technologies | Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada (PTAC) | \$25,000.00 | Anticipated completion December 2005 |
| Healing the Land: An Elder's Perspective | Monashee Resources Ltd. | \$24,700.00 | Anticipated completion July 2004 |
| Well Test Flare Plume Monitoring Phase II: Measurement of SO ₂ in Flare Plumes using the DIAL Method | Alberta Research Council Inc. | \$75,000.00 | Final Report Pending 2004 |



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ACID GAS SORPTION BY BRITISH
COLUMBIA COALS: IMPLICATIONS
FOR PERMANENT DISPOSAL OF ACID
GAS IN DEEP COAL SEAMS AND
POSSIBLE CO-PRODUCTION OF
METHANE.

PROPONENT:

University of BC

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To determine whether disposal of waste gases by injection into coal seams is an environmental and economical alternative. The research will also evaluate the potential for co-producing coalbed methane.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This is a highly technical study undertaken to determine the sequestration potential of acid gas using coal as a medium. It addresses a number of questions relating to the capacity of coal to sorb hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and sulfer dioxide (SO₂), the effect on coal, and the effects of moisture, mineral matter and other factors on the sorption of H₂S, SO₂ and carbon dioxide (CO₂) gases.

CONTACT:

R. Marc Bustin Ph: 604-822-6179

E-mail: bustin@unixg.ubc.ca

APPLICATION OF HIGH RESOLUTION
MESOSCALE MODEL FIELDS WITH THE
CALPUFF DISPERSION MODELING
SYSTEM IN PRINCE GEORGE BC

PROPONENT:

University of Northern BC

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To facilitate better monitoring of pollution concentrations in surrounding areas.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Air pollution monitoring is the key to managing industrial emissions such as sulpher dioxide, a gas associated with oil and gas activity. Dispersion modelling, a method of predicting pollution concentrations by using emissions and meteorological data, has seen limited use because of some simplifying assumptions that can lead to unrealistic predictions, especially in areas that have complex terrain. This study looks at a new way of modelling in complex terrain using the Regional Atmosphere Misoscale Model (RAMS) in combination with the California Puff Model (CALPUFF).

CONTACT:

Contact information not available



Photograph courtesy Levelton Consultants Ltd

RESEARCH ON THE APPLICABILITY
OF MODELED SITE SPECIFIC
METEOROLOGICAL DATA TO WELL
TEST FLARING ASSESSMENTS IN BC

PROPONENT:

Levelton Engineering Ltd.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To develop procedures and methods of air quality modeling in the foothills of Northeast BC, possibly eliminating the need to acquire long-term weather monitoring data for dispersion models.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Government and industry measure the impacts of wellsite flaring, but the current practice is to use meteorological data from a single point that is often far from the emission source and is based on simplifying assumptions. This study compared a meteorological model with independent site measurements to assess the accuracy of the model outputs and the feasibility of using modeled data in lieu of site observations, with particular reference to assessing the potential impacts of flaring. The study found that models can act as a substitute for collecting long-term meteorological data.

CONTACT:

Alex Shutte

Ph: 604-278-1411

E-mail: aschutte@levelton.com

Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Heliportable Drilling Feasibility Study

PROPONENT:

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and TERA Environmental Consultants

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To study the costs, benefits and feasibility of helicopter supported well drilling operations in environmentally sensitive areas.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This study comprises analyses—regulatory, environmental, technical and economic—of helicopter-based drilling technology in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. Some key findings from the study include:

 There are no regulatory or policy constraints that would explicitly exclude heliportable drilling

- The technique has less environmental impact than conventional programs, but disturbance of wildlife and recreationalists needs to be addressed
- The technology is available in Canada, however, rigs capable of drilling in excess of 5000m must be acquired outside of Canada
- Worker safety and sour gas well control concerns are manageable with existing technology and appropriate levels of planning.
- For sites requiring long, complex access, moderatedepth heliportable drilling may be substantially cheaper than conventional road-based drilling.

CONTACT:

Randall Glaholt & Lois Pittaway Ph: 403-265-2885

E-mail: rglaholt@teraenv.com



SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND FOREST REGENERATION SUCCESS ON RECLAIMED OIL AND GAS SITES

PROPONENT:

BC Ministry of Forests, Kalamalka Research Station

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To evaluate the effectiveness of previous efforts to restore soil productivity on abandoned well sites, seismic lines, and access roads in the Dawson Creek area of Northeast BC.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

How effective have previous efforts to restore forests on abandoned well sites been? This is the key question posed by this reclamation study. While success of restorative work in the working forest is well known, to date there is limited experience in the context of oil and gas reclamation. The study evaluated nineteen reclaimed well sites, and involved measurement of several site variables including tree growth, ecological conditions and soil texture. Recommendations for increasing reforestation success, including use of an ecological approach, were put forward as part of the project.

CONTACT:

Dr. Chuck Bulmer Ph: 250-260-4765

E-mail:

Chuck.bulmer@gems8.gov.bc.ca

INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH INTO ABANDONED WELLSITE RECLAMATION; CUMULATIVE IMPACT STUDY ON THE AAC; AND, DEVELOPMENT OF RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE BASED SYSTEMS

PROPONENT:

Monashee Resources Limited and BC Ministry of Forests

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To identify and minimize potential environmental impacts of oil and gas activities on the land base.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project comprises two key components: 1) the identification and treatment of identified abandoned well sites, and 2) an evaluation of the benefits of integrating pre-site assessments and reclamation prescriptions into the oil and gas application process. The key outcomes of the project include minimizing environmental impacts of the oil and gas industry on the land base, improving reclamation and forest management results, and integrating First Nation's traditional knowledge into oil and gas processes. In addition, the project will aid in addressing someof the key Kyoto Protocol issues that will impact the oil and gas industry.

CONTACT:

Korey Green Ph: 250-782-7472

E-mail:

koreygreen@monasheeresources.com



DEMONSTRATION OF THE
APPLICABILITY OF THE MAXXAM
ALL-SEASON PASSIVE AIR SAMPLING
SYSTEM TO THE MANAGEMENT
OF HYDROGEN SULFIDE (H₂S) IN
NORTHEAST BC

PROPONENT:

Maxxam Analytics Inc.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To demonstrate the unique features and suitability of the H₂S PASS (Passive Air Sampling System) for conducting cost effective and accurate air monitoring in oil and gas areas.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Environmental regulations require that emissions of hydrogen sulphide be monitored. There are generally two methods of monitoring the gas: active and passive. Active systems are relatively expensive to operate and support. Passive systems, on the other hand, are cost effective and convenient to use. The PASS is a portable and affordable air quality measurement device that allows data collection at more locations than can be serviced with active continuous monitors.

CONTACT:

Dr. Hongmoa H. Tang Ph: 780-468-3514 E-mail:

htang@mail.edm.maxxam.ca

SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES: ECONOMIC GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCING TECHNOLOGIES

PROPONENT:

Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada (PTAC)

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To facilitate the identification, development and transfer of new greenhouse gas (GHG) reducing technologies. In particular, to achieve a significant economical reduction in the GHG emissions of industry operations by leveraging technology.

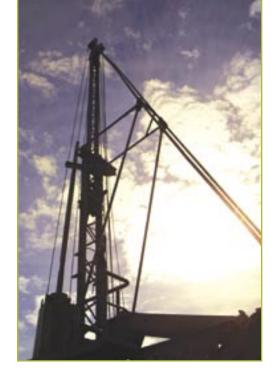
PROJECT SUMMARY:

With the Kyoto Accord ratified in Canada, there will be tighter constraints to carbon emissions in the coming years. New technologies to reduce GHG emissions and improve energy efficiency are priorities for governments, industry and the public. PTAC is facilitating the identification, development and transfer of sustainable and ecoefficient technologies with a focus on economical GHG reduction.

CONTACT:

Denis Gaudet, Director, Technology Transfer, PTAC Ph: 403-218-7710

E-mail: dgaudet@ptac.org





Prophet River Traditional Plant Study (© Kelly Bannister and used with permission)

HEALING THE LAND: AN ELDER'S PERSPECTIVE

PROPONENT:

Monashee Resources Ltd.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To provide knowledge from the perspective of First Nations' elders on the oil and gas reclamation process.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project plays an important role in integrating First Nations' traditional knowledge into the oil and gas site reclamation process. First Nation elders from throughout Northeast BC will contribute traditional knowledge to the site reclamation process through field visits and discussion with Monashee Resources Ltd. This information can then be used to design reclamation methods and techniques that reflect traditional knowledge.

CONTACT:

Korey Green

Ph: 250-782-7472

E-mail:

koreygreen@monasheeresources.com

Well Test Flare Plume Monitoring Phase II: Measurement of Sulpher Dioxide (SO_2) in Flare Plumes Using the DIAL Method.

PROPONENT:

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To field test a DIAL (Differential Absorption Lidar) system on a sour well flare to determine if it can accurately track the well flare plume and accurately measure the sulpher dioxide (SO₂) concentration in a cost effective manner.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Gas wells are often tested by burning gas through flaring. This produces sulpher dioxide as a byproduct. Governments have guidelines concerning ground level air quality when flaring occurs. Cost effective plume tracking and SO₂ measuring devices are required to track air quality. Phase I of this project identified the DIAL technique as the best for remote monitoring of SO₂. Phase II field tested the DIAL System.

CONTACT:

Allan Chambers, Alberta Research Council

Ph: 780-450-5122

E-mail: chambers@arc.ab.ca







