



To Enhance, Preserve & Protect Pigeon Lake & Its Watershed

FLASH - December 2009

UPDATE on MEC'S Water Application

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) has received notice of the recent approval of MEC's application to use non-saline water (groundwater from the underlying aquifer) with a renewal period of 5 years and a diversion quantity of 31,390 m³. MEC's initial renewal application to Alberta Environment requested a diversion of 91,980 m³ of groundwater to use at its facility for the purpose of injecting into a formation for oil recovery purposes. The PLWA had issued a Statement of Concern to Alberta Environment regarding this application based on several factors. We feel confident that our intervention basis has resulted in a significant reduction in volume of water approved. Additional conditions were placed on MEC include:

- Development of a conservation plan by November 1, 2010 to address usage issues;
- Development of a productivity plan to ensure proper conservation practices are being used and to assess new technology for enhanced oil recovery;
- Creation of an educational program related to oil field water use for the public and its employees;
- Monitoring and reporting of the water quality and quantity on an ongoing basis as defined in the license; and,
- A yearly evaluation report outlining the performance of the well, water quality, changes to the aquifer and operating conditions is to be completed by a qualified professional engineering consulting firm.

Further investigation and correspondence with Alberta Environment and other consultants have indicated the potential impacts to the lake at this quantity of water removal would be negligible.

PLWA actions contributed to the significant reduction of the volume of water approved for this license.

In conclusion, please know that PLWA will continue to oppose the use of using non-saline water for oil recovery purposes. We support the environmentally responsible Provincial policy to use alternatives to non-saline aquifer groundwater for this purpose. We continue to work hard, for our members and the lake community, to protect, preserve and enhance Pigeon Lake and its watershed.

If you have any questions please send us an e-mail to:

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