



Developer backs plan

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A major Calgary home developer supports Compton Petroleum Corp.'s plan to speed up extraction of sour gas on the southeast edge of the city, but has concerns about the safety of construction workers while new wells are being drilled.

"With the growth of the city, the existing sour gas fields should be depleted sooner rather than later in order to avoid potential conflicts between urban development and sour gas," said Robert Clark, vice-president of Carma Developers Ltd.

"We are concerned about the ongoing overshadowing effect of keeping a well in that area, as opposed to Compton's plan of get in, get out."

Clark appeared before the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board on Thursday to express Carma's comments on Compton's plan to add up to six new wells to the sour gas well it operates 1.1 kilometres from the city.

As the company responsible for the developing suburban communities closest to the wells -- including McKenzie Towne, New Brighton, Copperfield, Cranston and Auburn Bay -- Clark said Compton's intention to get as much gas out of the ground as possible within the next 15 years is "prudent" since it will take the company's single existing well at least 50 years to deplete the gas reserve.

Clark told the board that new homes and part of the new Seton business park are expected to be built within the four-kilometre emergency planning zone (EPZ) proposed for the wells within the next 20 years. The Calgary Health Region's new southeast hospital is to be located just outside the EPZ.

The CHR is opposed to Compton's plans.

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Sour Gas Well Hearing

- What's New: Developer wants sour gas wells gone 'sooner than later'
- What's Next: Landowners near wells support Compton's plan

This story features a factbox "Sour Gas Well Hearing".

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