



September 26, 2019

The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks, House Leader
Office of the Minister
208 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister Nixon,

Re: Air Monitoring in the Peace River Area

The Peace River Area Monitoring Program (PRAMP) Committee provides continuous, long-term air monitoring in the Peace River area as part of the Oil Sands Monitoring Program. We understand from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) staff that a new, multi-year contract between AEP and PRAMP is in progress. We appreciate that a multi-year contract is being proposed as it will enable PRAMP to deliver efficient and cost-effective long-term environmental monitoring programs.

Unfortunately, during this period of transition to a new contract, PRAMP has not been reimbursed by AEP for its air monitoring program work since June 30, 2019.

We are requesting your approval of payment for the PRAMP long-term monitoring program to allow us to continue air monitoring and reporting services for the Peace River area and to pay our staff and service providers.

PRAMP provides comprehensive air monitoring to permit the identification and appropriate response to odour and emission related issues in the Peace River Area. We are also in the process of commissioning the first Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) station in the area that will provide valuable health-related information for residents. Air monitoring in the area started in 2010 and continues today as a collaborative effort among community, industry and government representatives. In 2016, the PRAMP Committee became a registered not-for-profit society and Alberta's tenth Airshed. Funding for the monitoring is provided from the OSM program through a contract with AEP.

As a new not-for-profit society, PRAMP does not have reserve funds that would permit it to continue meeting its financial obligations during this period of transition to a new contract with AEP. We understand from AEP staff that the PRAMP budget and work plan for 2019-20 has been assessed and approved in the OSM review process, and that several steps remain within AEP before a contract will be provided to PRAMP.

In addition, in the PRAMP 2018-19 Financial Statements, the PRAMP Auditor has noted:

Subsequent to year end, the Society has not completed a contract for services for the final three quarters of the 2020 fiscal year-end. As a result, the Society is undergoing cash flow strain and without a contract, the Society may be required to liquidate assets and cease operations.

The current contract between AEP and PRAMP (Contract Number 19AEM814) extends to March 31, 2021. The financial commitment with the contract ended on June 30, 2019. An extension of the funding to December 31, 2019 (or another date recommended by AEP) for Contract 19AEM814 would allow PRAMP to continue its service delivery during this time of contract transition.

Alternatively, an advance of six months payment against the new contract would also be a practical solution for PRAMP. PRAMP will be pleased to work with AEP staff on whatever approach will enable PRAMP to access its approved OSM funds for the ongoing monitoring program.

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Shelly Shannon
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Dallyn
Community Co-Chair



Garrett Tomlinson
Government Co-Chair
Métis Nation Region 6



Anthony Traverse
Industry Co-Chair
Baytex Energy

cc. Mr. Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River
Mr. Pat Rehn, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake
Mr. Todd Loewen, MLA for Central Peace-Notley

Ms Bev Yee, Deputy Minister, AEP
Dr. Fred Wrona, Chief Scientist, AEP
Dr. Monique Dube, Executive Director, AEP
Mr. Bob Myrick, Director, Airshed Science, AEP