

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 VISION & MISSION

Vision:

The Peace River Area will have air free of emissions and odours from heavy oil and bitumen operations that affect human health.

Mission:

The Peace River Area will have an air quality monitoring program that provides credible and comprehensive data to permit the identification and appropriate response to odour and emissions from heavy oil and bitumen production operations.

1.2 HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Oil and gas development in and around Alberta communities has been on-going for decades. Communities and companies learn to work and live together, and to be successful, it is a process that takes time and effort from many people. In the Peace River area, communication and collaboration among residents, companies, local municipalities, the Alberta Energy Regulator and the provincial government is continuing to evolve and grow. The Peace River Area Monitoring Program (PRAMP) Committee is one more collaborative step to address the interests of the community, the industry operators and the citizens of Alberta.

Oil in the Peace River area is considered heavy oil, and the primary process technique used to extract this heavy oil in the Peace River area is through cold heavy oil production with sand (CHOPs). In CHOPs operations, oil, gas, water and sand are produced from an underground reservoir. The oil is separated in heated production tanks before being transported by truck. Production has increased about 20% each year from 2003 to 2013.

Beginning in 2009, complaints from residents about odours in the area began to increase. The complaints were investigated, studies were launched and at the same time residents, the regulator, industry and government representatives began working together to assess and address the concerns. Area operators set up two continuous air monitoring trailers near residences. A committee that included residents, companies, the regulator and government representatives was established to provide input to the air monitoring and assess the results.

In July 2013, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) initiated a proceeding to address odours and emissions in the Peace River area. After information gathering and an oral proceeding in Peace River, the AER issued a report and began to implement a series of recommendations in April 2014.

The PRAMP Committee was launched in January 2015 to build on the existing monitoring program and to address the AER recommendations for air monitoring and modelling in the Peace River area. The Peace River area includes Three Creeks, Seal Lake, Walrus and Reno as shown on the following map.

The Committee has members from the community, industry and government and works on a consensus basis. The PRAMP Committee was designated an Airshed in 2017 by the Alberta Airsheds Council. Up to the Fall of 2016, the operators in the



area funded the air monitoring and the PRAMP Committee. As of October 1, 2016, the monitoring and the PRAMP Committee is funded by the Oil Sands Monitoring program through a contract with Alberta Environment and Parks. The monitoring is focused on hydrocarbon odours and emissions, and also includes one station that provides information about the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). Approximately eight meetings are held each year, generally by videoconference, with occasional working sessions in Peace River.

1.3 PRAMP BOUNDARIES

In 2020, the PRAMP Board of Directors approved a change in the Airshed boundaries. The PRAMP Airshed boundary now includes Three Creeks, Reno, Seal, and Walrus as well as additional areas, as depicted in the figure below:

