



## **Dodds-Roundhill Coal Gasification Project Community Newsletter April - May 2007**

This newsletter is the third in this series that covers our recent activities relating to the Dodds-Roundhill coal gasification project. The goal of these newsletters is to allow us to keep in touch with the community and share information about the progress we are making. Hopefully this newsletter will also help address some of your questions and concerns.

### **Stakeholder Consultation**

Since the last community meeting in March, we have been working closely with a number of community groups and associations. In particular, we have worked with the Round Hill-Dodds Agricultural Protective Association to help them establish a community advisory group for the Project area. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated and we believe that the presence of a common voice for the community will allow for more effective communications and representation of community concerns and needs. As a courtesy to the Round Hill-Dodds Agricultural Protective Association we have attached a document which more fully describes the goals and make up of that association.

### **Addressing Stress**

The Round Hill-Dodds Agricultural Protective Association has advised Sherritt that a significant issue being raised by a number of community members is the emotional impact and level of stress created by the proposed Project for individuals, families and the community as a whole. This issue is an ongoing challenge with any project of this size and nature. As a result of the community's concerns, a Sherritt representative met with the regional manager of Mental Health at the East Central Health Region to inform them about the proposed Project and learn what services were currently available to the general public to work through their stress.

The company is now considering its options with respect to ensuring that services are available to support the emotional and mental well being of community members impacted by the proposed Project. The East Central Health Region offers ongoing mental health support through both the Tofield office (5024-51 Ave., 679-1241) and the Camrose office (911-47 St., 679-1764). As an initial step, it is our intention to work closely with the Health Region and the Round Hill-Dodds Agricultural Protective Association steering committee to ensure that the community is fully aware of these services.

Longer term, we are looking at the possibility of providing a range of tools to help the community address stress. This may include holding seminars to provide community members with an opportunity to speak with one another about the effects of stress, to explore strategies for coping, and to raise awareness of the support services that are available. While these programs are being developed, we have asked that Don McLeod (a Sherritt consultant and community liaison who is also a trained social worker and

ordained Minister) make himself available to try and respond to any additional questions or concerns that you may have in the interim. You can call Don collect at **403-680-2628** and please be assured that all communications with Don will be held in complete confidence and Sherritt will never know who has asked for assistance.

## Site Tours

A number of community members have expressed an interest in touring other Sherritt mines, such as the one at Paintearth, to better understand the nature of the mining operations and the associated reclamation programs. We would be pleased to coordinate such tours, and if you are interested we encourage you to call Nola Bietz (toll free: **1-888-686-8391**) to make arrangements.

## Project Status

Commercial arrangements and engineering design for the proposed Project continue to be refined and there are some changes that are now being considered. Although a small power plant that would use waste steam and tail gas from the process was originally planned to supply some of the power for the site, Sherritt is also in discussion with a third-party power company that is considering building a power plant on site that will use syngas as its primary fuel. The larger plant, if built, would supply enough power for the entire gasification complex and also be able to deliver a small amount of electricity to the Alberta Power Pool. This approach could provide economic benefits to the Project as well as represent a significant step forward towards low-emission power generation in the province.

With this potential change to the proposed Project, there will likely be a slightly higher consumption of coal as well as increased production of syngas and carbon dioxide. The extent of these increases will depend on overall project economics and the final design proposed by the power company. It is important to note, however, that the physical footprint of the industrial complex will not increase as a result of this change. We are also confident that there will be no significant change to the proposed Project's environmental impact, as carbon dioxide capture and sequestration remain a priority. The expected impacts associated with the power generation component will be investigated at length as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment work currently underway.

## Mine Planning

Work on the mine plan is ongoing. This includes the incorporation of additional information from individual landowners, the various community associations, local government and other area industries. In addition, we anticipate that further drilling may be required to better define coal boundaries, particularly along the northeast boundary of the mine. Once the new draft of the mine plan is completed, our intention is, again, to share it with the community and seek additional input.

## Frequently Asked Questions

We continue to capture and develop responses to the issues and concerns raised by the community and other stakeholders during individual and community meetings and

through the correspondence we receive. We refer to these as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and they represent a composite of the hundreds of questions that we have received and have tried to address. The most recent version of the FAQ's are included with this update.

## **Historical Resources Assessment – Community Assistance**

FMA Heritage Resources Consultants Inc. has been retained to identify prehistoric and historic sites in the region and is seeking the community's assistance.

Prehistoric archaeological sites are those created by First Nations peoples prior to Europeans entering the area. Scatters of artifacts such as arrowheads are indicators of these site locations, as are large quantities of bone (particularly in sloughs). Any information that can be provided by landowners regarding such items collected from or observed in the fields would greatly assist the archaeologists in identifying and recording sites. The opportunity to view personal collections would be particularly helpful.

Historic sites in the region may date back as far as the fur trade period, but most will likely date back to the homestead period. Generally, the archaeologists will be looking for structures from the 1800's and the first half of the 1900's. If any landowners are aware of an old structure or even the remains of an old structure on their property, this and any other related information will be of great value.

If you have information on the locations of prehistoric archaeological sites or any historic structures in the mine study area that you are prepared to share, please contact Jennifer Tischer at FMA Heritage Resources Consultants Inc. at 403-245-5661, or e-mail at [Jennifer.tischer.fma@telusplanet.net](mailto:Jennifer.tischer.fma@telusplanet.net).

## **Wildlife Information – Community Assistance**

Westworth Associates Environmental Ltd. has been retained to conduct an assessment of wildlife in the study area, and assess the effects the proposed Project may have on wildlife.

The field program is designed to gather baseline data on the presence and habitat use of each species. The program is designed to survey species when and where they are most likely to be detected. For example, amphibians are surveyed in the spring because that is when they are calling and at their breeding ponds, breeding birds are surveyed in the early summer, and bats are surveyed in the late summer.

Local input would be valuable for developing a species list in the study area and for obtaining an idea of which species and habitat areas are of particular concern to residents. Useful information has already been obtained from the Christmas Bird Count, the Breeding Bird Survey, various books and reports, Ducks Unlimited, and from local naturalists.

If you have information on wildlife and habitat use in the study area that you would like to share, please contact Sarah Coulter at Westworth Associates Environmental Ltd. at 780-466-9992, or email at [scoulter@wael.ca](mailto:scoulter@wael.ca).

## Land Access

Sherritt's consultants continue to meet with landowners in the mine study area to discuss the proposed Project and request permission for land access. While sufficient access to private lands was obtained to allow the various studies to start, additional access would help to ensure that the studies meet all of the government's technical and scientific requirements.

## Environmental Field Studies

With the advent of spring, we have initiated additional environmental field studies. A brief summary of recent and planned activities is presented below.

**Groundwater:** The various monitoring wells have been drilled and initial groundwater samples were collected in April.

**Wildlife:** Waterfowl and raptor (hawks & eagles) surveys will be carried out in mid-May and at the end of May. Road-side amphibian surveys will also be completed in May.

**Hydrology:** In early April, field observations were completed and three gauges were installed to monitor water levels at key locations in the watershed. In mid-April an aerial survey was conducted to assess surface run-off patterns in the mine study area. The morphology (shape) of various stream channels will be surveyed at five locations in May.

**Aquatics:** Data gathering on spring water quality and biological sampling from area streams and ponds will begin in early May.

**Soils:** Field surveys within the study area will commence in early to mid-May, depending on ground conditions, and continue throughout the summer.

**Historical:** The field studies will take place in spring/summer 2007, starting in early May. Identified sites will initially be tested by digging small holes with a shovel to determine whether a more complete archaeological excavation is warranted. No full-scale excavations will be initiated without first receiving landowner permission.

**Vegetation:** Field verification of wetlands vegetation will begin in May.

## Contact Us

At Sherritt, we are committed to working with you and listening to what you have to say. If at any time you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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