



HORIZON Oil Sands Project *update*

Issue Number 8 May 2004

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Education and skills training: Canadian Natural advocates and supports regional education and skills training through our Building Futures Training and Education Program that includes scholarships for local students, and by co-operating in focused initiatives with leading educators such as Keyano College.



Canadian Natural

Regulatory approvals received

The provincial and federal governments have issued approvals enabling Canadian Natural's Horizon Oil Sands Project to proceed.

At the end of January 2004, the Joint Review Panel of the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency released its report on the Horizon Project. The Joint Panel determined the Project is in the public interest (full report: www.eub.gov.ab.ca). The Governments of Canada and Alberta have accepted the Joint Panel's recommendations and issued Orders in Council to allow the Project to proceed.

Regulatory approvals related to the *Alberta Environmental Protection Act* (AEPEA) and *Water Act* were received in April along with the surface disposition approval from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Approval to construct the first diversion ditches for the Project were also issued in April by Federal Fisheries and Oceans. A full regulatory decision from Federal Fisheries and Oceans is expected in June 2004.

Canadian Natural's Board of Directors maintains strong support for the Project and will be conducting a comprehensive review of the Project this year. The review will include engineering definition, cost estimates, as well as execution and contract plans. With the approval of our Board, full construction is targeted to start later this year. This maintains Canadian Natural's schedule to produce oil from the Project in 2008.

Work to date has included completion of our access road, clearing of the plant site areas and continued drilling to define the quality and location of mineable bitumen. The finalization of all permit and approval requirements allows Canadian Natural to meet our construction schedule for 2004.

We also continue to work with stakeholders to meet the environmental, social, cultural, and economic commitments we have made related to the Project.

Among activities in 2004:

- incorporation of measures to meet the conditions identified by the Joint Review Panel;
- work related to approvals for gravel leases and an on-site airstrip;
- preliminary work related to clearing/drainage of plant and infrastructure locations;
- a co-generation application to supply power to the Project;
- continued support for traditional land use studies to meet Aboriginal agreements;
- more detailed Historic Resources impact assessments for areas that will be disturbed;
- continued fish habitat studies related to water intake;
- visual impact planning;
- continuation of migratory bird surveys; and
- continuation of the wildlife corridor study along the Athabasca River.

Ongoing opportunities for stakeholder input



Canadian Natural is committed to strengthening co-operative working relationships with stakeholders as we move ahead with the Horizon Project.

As we follow-through on stakeholder agreements and commitments, we continue to welcome the input of all stakeholders.

We are planning a community open house once our Board of

Directors has provided us direction on proceeding with the construction of the Horizon Project. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions related to the Horizon Project.

If you are interested in a recent brochure that provides an overview of our approach to the Horizon Project, see our web site: www.cnrl.com (look under *Assets for the Horizon Project* where you will find a link to the brochure). If you would like a printed copy of the brochure, please contact our Fort McMurray office.



As part of our ongoing involvement with stakeholders, Canadian Natural continues to be an active participant and funding member of regional working groups such as the Regional Issues Working Group (RIWG) and the Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA). Through groups such as this we are supportive of regional environmental monitoring programs such as those related to aquatic studies. Pictured above is an aerial view of the Athabasca River during fisheries flight telemetry research (tracking fish migration/movements under ice) as part of CEMA's Instream Flow Needs work.

Habitat for Humanity delights a family



Habitat for Humanity recently delighted a Fort McMurray family by presenting them with a new home! Canadian Natural was proud to be a sponsor of this project, and we look forward to providing ongoing support to this community initiative.

We recognize that affordable housing continues to be an issue in the region. Phasing-in of our operations over a five- to eight-year period will help to level growth, and reduce the impacts on the Region's infrastructure, services and housing. On-site housing of our construction workforce combined with transportation policies are other measures we are pursuing in co-operation with stakeholders to address the housing issue.



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is published regularly by Canadian Natural to provide information about this development and to promote discussion and stakeholder input.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome:

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Please see our web site for more information:
www.cnrl.com (look under *Assets for the Horizon Project*).