



PEKISKO GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEKISKO GROUP DISMAYED AT ERCB'S DECISION TO APPROVE PETRO-CANADA'S PROPOSAL

"WE ARE GIVING AWAY ALBERTA'S NATURAL WEALTH"

The Pekisko Group is dismayed to learn that the Energy Resource Conservation Board (ERCB) has approved Suncor (Petro-Canada)'s bid to drill 11 sour gas wells and construct a 56-kilometer sour gas pipe line through the pristine land in the Pekisko area.

"We find the ERCB decision to approve Suncor/ Petro-Canada's proposal is truly regrettable, thereby allowing irreparable damage to protected untouched land vital to the Eastern slopes watershed, wildlife and indigenous grasses", said Pekisko Group's President Mac Blades.

"We were deeply concerned about the damage that the proposed pipeline would cause to this area, which is deemed by scientists to be one of two areas of undisturbed, biological integrity remaining on the Southeastern Slopes ", Mr. Blades added.

The Pekisko Group was further disappointed to learn that ERCB did not include the alternative pipeline route in its decision.

While Suncor/Petro-Canada said it was committed to responsible watershed management, the project will cross 72 rivers, creeks, seasonal streams and other water courses in the Willow Creek and Pekisko Creek drainage areas. The area proposed for the pipeline is mainly inaccessible by vehicle. However, it has been observed that once the development begins, there's no stopping it. Everywhere a pipeline has been built, it's been followed by weeds, motorbikes, ATVs, trespass, clear cuts, more wells, more roads and more industrialization.

"We do not generally oppose the oil and gas industry. We understand its economic value to all Albertans. At the same time, we believe that a balance is required between short-term hydrocarbon extraction and the long-term economic benefit of this, a unique heritage rangeland and a critical watershed for southern Alberta. With this pipeline approval, we are giving away Alberta's natural wealth", said Mr. Blades.

Ranchers and landowner groups in the area have worked together with representatives of the provincial government and the oil industry (including Petro-Canada) to develop the Southern Foothills Study as a foundation for a Land Use Plan to preserve the Eastern Slopes. The ranchers



PEKISKO GROUP

had called for a moratorium on any oil and gas development in the area until an acceptable Land Use Plan was in place. A recent Leger Marketing poll showed that 74 per cent of Albertans support this moratorium

The Pekisko Group is an association of many agriculture and ranching families who have been stewards of the land along the Eastern Slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains for more than 100 years. They have sought to protect a pristine landscape generating sustainable fresh water, wildlife habitat, clean air, and economic benefit for Albertans.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Mac Blades
+1 403-646-5753

The Pekisko Group
RR # 1 Nanton, Alberta
T0L 1R0