



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 15, 2012

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Directors  
Director Goodings Chair  
Director Hiebert  
Director Schembri  
Director Nichols  
Director Caisley  
Director Fynn  
Director Hadland

Alternate Directors  
Alternate Director Klassen  
Alternate Director Shuman  
Alternate Director Johansson

Absent  
Director Ackerman  
Director Bernier  
Director Anderson  
Director Christensen  
Director Jarvis

### Staff

Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sheila DeCosta, Secretary – Legislative Services, Recorder

### Fraser Basin Council

David Marshall, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council

### Ministry of Health

Lidia Surman, Ministry of Health, Project Manager  
Timothy Lambert, Executive Director Health Protection, Ministry of Health

1) Call to Order            The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

2) Adoption of Agenda    CW/12/02/01  
MOVED by Director Hiebert, SECONDED by Director Schembri,  
that the Peace River Regional District agenda and handouts for the February 15, 2012  
Committee of the Whole meeting, be adopted:

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda

Handouts:

- February 15, 2012 email from Director Ackerman regarding the issues brought forward by the Fort St. John City Council, to the Fraser Basin Council on February 13, 2012.
- April 25, 2006 Mountain View Gazette article – “Country residents monitored for air contamination – 100 volunteers to wear monitors that will collect air for further testing”

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Adoption of Agenda -  
continued

CW/12/02/01 continued:

3. Reports (*Background*)

R-1 January 18, 2012 report from Faye Salisbury, Corporate Officer – Request for Input into the Study of Health Issues in NE BC. (R-11 from the January 26, 2012 Regional Board Meeting)

Resolution from January 26, 2012

RD/12/01/15 (26)

MOVED by Director Ackerman, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that that staff be requested to contact the Fraser Basin Council to obtain their meeting schedule of when they will be in this region, so that the Regional Board may meet with them directly to discuss health concerns relating to oil and gas activities in Northeastern BC.

R-2 February 1, 2012 report from Faye Salisbury, Corporate Officer – Committee of the Whole Meeting with Fraser Basin Council Re: Health Concerns about oil & gas development in northeastern BC. (R-3 from the February 9, 2012 Regional Board Meeting)

Resolution from February 9, 2012

RD/12/02/18

MOVED by Director Anderson, SECONDED by Alternate Director Shuman, that a Committee of the Whole meeting be held with Mr. David Marshall, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council, to discuss health concerns relating to oil and gas activities in Northeastern BC., at 10:00 a.m. on February 15, 2012 at the Peace River Regional District Office Board Room.

4. Adjournment

CARRIED

3) Discussion

The purpose of the meeting is to have informal discussions with members of the Fraser Basin Council, who have been commissioned by the Ministry of Health to conduct Phase 1, the public engagement process of the Human Health Risk Assessment three phase project to identify, explore and assess concerns about human health relating to oil and gas development in Northeastern BC.

David Marshall, Executive Director presented an overview of the scoping phase where the council is gathering information from multiple interests, including members of the public, citizens groups, government authorities, health organizations, environmental organizations, community groups, industry, workers, academic institutions, and anyone else who may be able to identify human health concerns. Details concerning the Councils' mandate and instructions for those wishing to participate are attached to, and form part of these minutes, they also will be distributed to all rural area residents by the council.

Lidia Surman, Ministry of Health, Project Manager and Timothy Lambert, Executive Director Health Protection, Ministry of Health were also in attendance to answer questions and hear the comments from the Directors.

The following is the list of concerns, examples and recommendations brought forward during the discussion period:

- validation of anecdotal information is difficult without data collection and statistical information;
- impacts to water quality, air quality, and damage to roads are everyone's concerns;

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3) Discussion -  
continued

- some people who are strongly affected by flaring feel their concerns are not being heard;
- H<sub>2</sub>S warning signs (turned sideways so the travelling public can't see them) on the highway north of Wonowon, give people the impression that their safety is not being considered;
- the call center's emergency response system requires a more co-ordinated response, possibly through incorporation of the 911 data base, as has been offered by the Peace River Regional District in the past;
- emotional stress - examples were given where people who have been affected and complained have been marginalized to the point of having to move off their land, and also where people have been pushed so far by industry that they reacted with violence;
- examples were given of (H<sub>2</sub>S / contaminated water related) animal death incidences that seem to have been brushed under the carpet, autopsy results were not forthcoming and seemingly no consequences were borne by industry;
- there should be responsibilities and better policing of reckless drivers who spill their loads;
- recommended that industry be consulted in this project as they have a wealth of information;
- appropriate setbacks would dispel some of the issues, should be done at the time of issuance of the tenure to industry, as is done in California;
- recommended collaboration of data collection with other types of data e.g. incidence of disease, post incident data;
- air quality scientific monitoring needed, e.g. flaring gas determination at different levels. In Alberta volunteers wore monitors for air quality testing (*see attached Mountain View Gazette article*);
- Oil and Gas Commission offices should be located in the north, not in Kelowna
- Local needs are not being assessed properly by the regulators in the southern portion of the province e.g. four laneing of the highways – needs to be divided highway for safety reasons;
- serious social issues related to high paying jobs e.g. high use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, and loss of life on roads, young people dying; organized crime; reluctance for people to talk about these issues;
- recommended that a coordinated health plan come out of this process;
- medical services in communities are being stretched to the limit with the influx of temporary workers and need staff increases e.g. Chetwynd should have five doctors and suffers from ambulance service shortages;
- the sale of potable water to industry is not appropriate stewardship of water;
- exposure to low level toxins over time possibly has greater impacts on health than a catastrophic event does;
- recommended that the Fraser Basin Council also meet with the Farmers' Advocate Office;
- contaminated soil hauling / disposal and related weed transfer is a major concern e.g. rather than reclamation, increasing numbers of landfills and facilities are being set up;

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3) Discussion -  
continued

- there needs to be ongoing support for people whose health has been impacted by industrial development;
- the medical community in this area should become more knowledgeable regarding of the impacts to health from industry e.g. H<sub>2</sub>S; low level toxicity, emotional stress, etc. and
- recommended that there be a time frame set for phase two and phase three of the Human Health and Risk Assessment Project.

Chair Goodings closed the meeting by stating that the Regional District does appreciate industry and the many benefits it brings to the area, but said there needs to be more openness and ability for people to have their concerns heard and questions answered.

In closing, Mr. Marshall thanked the directors for their input and asked that their concerns be listed and submitted in a written brief by March 7, 2012 so they may be incorporated into the report the Fraser Basin Council will be submitting to the Ministry of Health by March 31, 2012.

For those interested in keeping current with the progress of the project, updates will be posted to the project website at [www.hhra.ca](http://www.hhra.ca)

4) Adjournment

CW/12/02/02

MOVED by Alternate Director Shuman, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila DeCosta, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Goodings, Chair

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District from a Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 15, 2012 in the Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, B.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer

*Attachments: 2*

## Questions & Answers

about the human health risk assessment – phase 1

a few things you'll want to know



### WHAT IS THE HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT? WHAT HAPPENS IN PHASE 1?

The Human Health Risk Assessment is a three-phase project of the Province of British Columbia, led by the BC Ministry of Health. The project will identify, explore and assess concerns about human health risks relating to oil and gas development in northeastern British Columbia. The full risk assessment consists of three phases: 1) a public engagement to identify health concerns, 2) a human health risk assessment based on findings from Phase 1 and 3) a report to the Province, stakeholders and the public.

**Phase 1** of this project – carried out by the non-profit Fraser Basin Council – is public engagement aimed at **identifying health concerns**.

### WHY IS THE ASSESSMENT NEEDED?

Many people and groups have raised questions about the health and safety of oil and gas development in the northeast. The Human Health Risk Assessment process is an initiative aimed at identifying these concerns, understanding whether health risks exist, and developing recommendations for future action.

### CAN ANYONE RAISE CONCERNS?

**Yes – Phase 1 is about identifying human health concerns. Any individual or organization with a concern to express is invited to send comments to the Fraser Basin Council.** This includes members of the public who live and work in areas where oil and gas development is taking place, citizens groups interested in the issues, environmental and community groups, and other individuals, authorities and organizations that can help identify human health concerns.

The Fraser Basin Council is taking steps to contact individuals and organizations that may have comments, including federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments, health organizations, citizens groups, academic researchers and industry officials and workers, and others. **If you or someone you know may want to get involved, don't wait – participate! The deadline for comments is March 7, 2012.**

### HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

There are several ways. You can offer comments (by March 7) via the project website, by email (or email attachment), by regular mail, or through a toll-free telephone comment line. For details, see reverse. Also, visit our website at [www.hhra.ca](http://www.hhra.ca).

There will also be opportunity for some organizations or individuals to meet one-on-one with the Fraser Basin Council, by telephone or in person. To request a meeting, please contact Yvonne Nichols at the Fraser Basin Council ([info@hhra.ca](mailto:info@hhra.ca)) or leave a message on our toll-free line: **1-855-664-4472**.

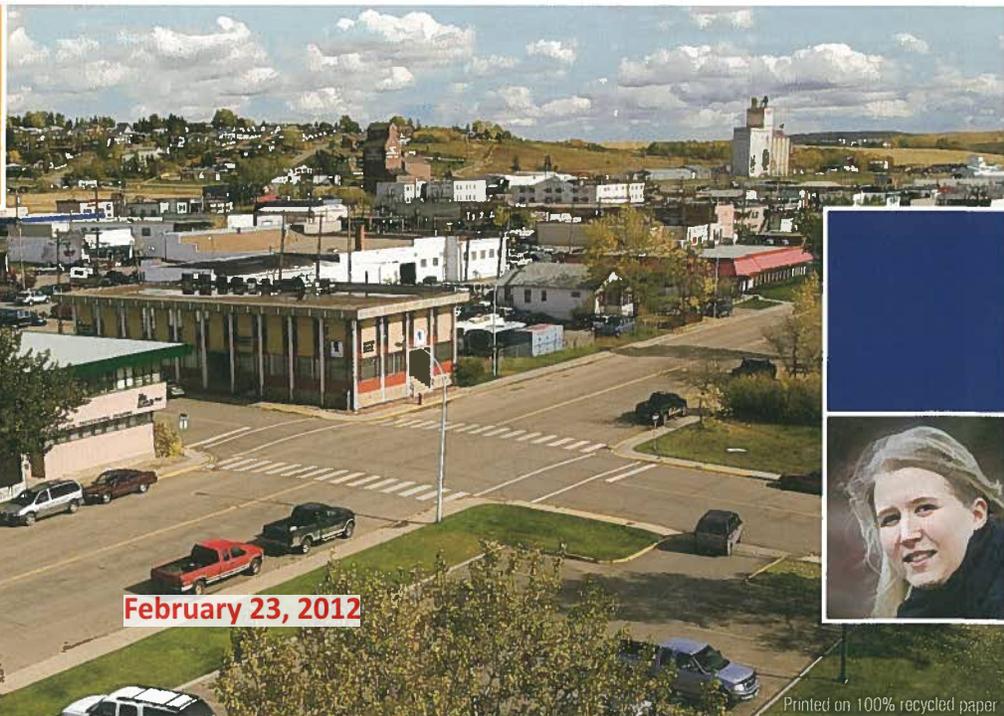
### WILL MY IDENTITY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

The Phase 1 report will include a general synopsis of concerns that the Fraser Basin Council has received from organizations and individuals. Organizations that submit comments will be listed in the report along with their submissions.

To protect the privacy interests of individuals who provide comments, however, the Fraser Basin Council will not list their names in the report unless they opt to have their names listed as participants.

### HOW CAN I STAY UP TO DATE?

Visit the project website at [www.hhra.ca](http://www.hhra.ca) for updated information on how to participate and keep track of our progress.





## Health Concerns

### about oil & gas development in northeastern BC?

we're here to listen

Do you have concerns about possible risks to human health that relate to oil and gas development in Northeastern BC? If you do, here is an opportunity to share those concerns. Your participation is needed for Phase 1 of a three-phase Human Health Risk Assessment by the BC Ministry of Health.

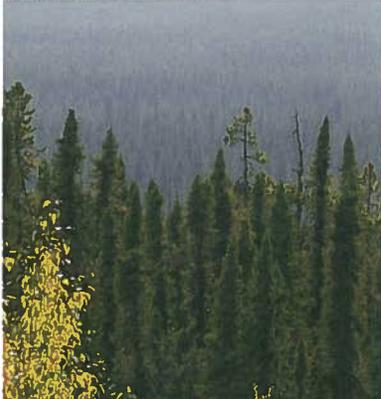
Phase 1 is focused on identifying health issues and concerns that will inform the terms of reference for Phase 2 of the Human Health Risk Assessment. The Fraser Basin Council, an impartial, non-profit organization, is carrying out Phase 1 on behalf of the Provincial Government. We welcome comments from individuals and organizations. There is no required form — you are free to state your concerns as you wish.

**Please don't wait – participate!** The deadline for comments is **March 7, 2012.**



#### FOUR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- 1 ONLINE**  
Visit our project website at [www.hhra.ca](http://www.hhra.ca) to submit your comments online
- 2 EMAIL**  
Send us your comments by email (or email attachment) to [info@hhra.ca](mailto:info@hhra.ca)
- 3 TOLL-FREE LINE**  
Leave comments on our toll-free line: **1-855-664-4472**
- 4 MAIL**  
Send your comments by regular mail: **HRRR – Phase 1, c/o Fraser Basin Council, 1st Floor, 470 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5**



**Do you want to talk to us?** The Fraser Basin Council is also scheduling a number of one-on-one meetings with interested individuals, organizations, environmental groups and community groups — by phone or in person — in Northeastern BC. To request a meeting with us, contact Yvonne Nichols by email ([info@hhra.ca](mailto:info@hhra.ca)) or leave a message on our toll-free line.

Questions? See next page. Also visit our website at [www.hhra.ca](http://www.hhra.ca)  
We need to receive your comments by March 7, 2012.



Fraser Basin Council

#### About the Human Health Risk Assessment

The Human Health Risk Assessment is a three-phase project organized by the BC Ministry of Health to identify, explore and assess concerns about human health relating to oil and gas development in Northeastern British Columbia. Phase 1, the public engagement process to identify health concerns, is being carried out by the Fraser Basin Council, which will deliver a report to the Minister of Health at the end of March 2012.

#### About the Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council is a charitable, non-profit society that advances sustainability in the Fraser Basin and across BC. We bring people together to find collaborative solutions, with a focus on healthy water and watersheds, climate change and air quality, and community sustainability and resilience.

**February 23, 2012**

# County residents' monitored for air contamination

*100 volunteers to wear monitors that will collect air for further testing*

BY DAN SINGLETON  
MVG Staff

The Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ), David Thompson Health Region (DTHR) and Alberta Health and Wellness have launched a project that will look at how air quality may be affecting west central Albertan's health, say officials.

The Human Health Program will attempt to assess the impact of airborne contaminants on the health of selected residents living in the northwest corner of Mountain View County and the southeast corner of Clearwater County.

Although similar projects have already been conducted in three northern Alberta communities, it is the first time such a project has been undertaken in central Alberta.

Based on a format prepared by Alberta Health and Wellness, the project will see 100 volunteers monitored over a four month period starting in January.

Greg Ritz, public health inspector with the DTHR, is the chairman of the PAMZ committee overseeing the project.

He said preliminary work on the program is already underway.

"It's a very good program and it gives very good baseline studies of people," said Ritz.

"We will be looking at various parameters in the air. The monitors will be testing for SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S and things like particulate matter. It will give a real good indication of what they are actually breathing in."

Detailed health assessment and testing will be part of the program, with volunteers wearing monitors that suck in and collect the air the people are breathing. The volunteers will also have monitors in their homes and in their yards.

"There will be testing of lung function. We will also have ambient air monitoring going on in the area at the same time," he said.

As part of the program, there will be a health surveillance component, looking at respiratory and cardiac disease statistics collected by the DTHR.

The results of the study will be released to the public in the form of a final report.

"We hope to repeat it in following years so we have an ongoing track record of the status of people's health in the area," he said.

About \$400,000 will be spent on the program, with most of the money coming from Alberta Health and Wellness.

Recruiting of the 100 volunteers, fifty from each county, will soon get underway.

Formed in 1997, PAMZ is a multi-stakeholder society made up of government, industry, municipal government and environmental representatives, as well as members of the general public.

PAMZ uses air monitoring equipment to continuously monitor concentrations of a broad range of pollutants, both natural and man-made.

There are four continuous air quality monitoring stations, 34 passive monitors, and two portable stations. Monitoring is conducted across the region throughout the year.

Data collected is typically posted on the PAMZ website ([www.pamz.org](http://www.pamz.org)) and released to stakeholders.

In other recent news, PAMZ has just wrapped up three months of monitoring in the Water Valley area, said executive director Kevin Warren.

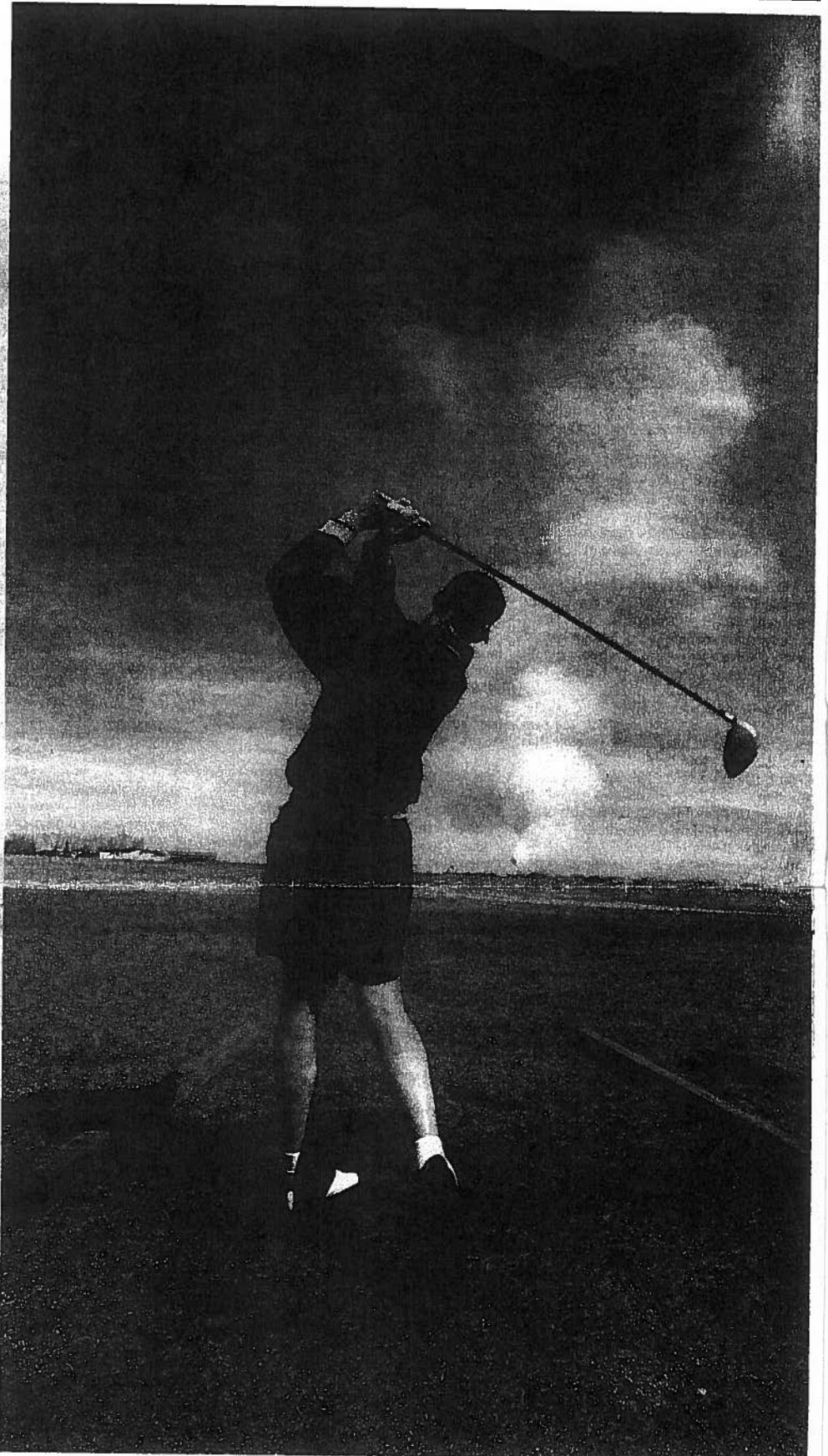
"We didn't see a whole lot. It was more to build a regional database and the levels were very close to what I would consider background levels," said Warren.

Monitoring was conducted in the Didsbury area in January and further monitoring will be conducted there in July or August.

"Again it was just to build our geographic database. Plus we had a resident who had expressed concern about the level of activity in the region. We saw levels that were quite within the normal for the zone," he said.

For the first time, PAMZ is conducting monitoring outside the PAMZ boundaries, just north of Big Valley.

"The reason for that is there have been concerns expressed about ozone levels that may be arising from our zone, and specifically from the Red Deer area. So



**HOW IS THE AIR WE ARE BREATHING?** – Smoke rises from a controlled burn as a golfer takes some practice swings on a local driving range. A new study will look at the air we are breathing in central Alberta and how it may be affecting our health.

Carla Victor/Mountain View Gazette

we want to be downwind to see what those levels are," he said.

Work is underway to find a hog farm in the region where monitoring can be conducted, he said.

"I have a couple of candidate sites in mind right now, but nothing final. It's really difficult to find a good site around these operations because in a lot of cases the people are kind of worried about, you know, what happens if we find something," he said.

The upcoming Issues Identification meeting at the Rimbey Community Centre on May 9 will see officials

gather public comments from residents throughout the region.

"This is an opportunity for anybody who has air quality concerns to bring them before PAMZ. Also out of that meeting we can identify possible locations that monitoring can address those concerns," he said.

**GREG RITZ**  
public health inspector

**"It will give a real good indication of what they are actually breathing in"**

PAMZ's annual general meeting is scheduled for Sundre's West Country Centre on June 20.

The PAMZ boundaries encompass a 45,000 kilometre area of west central Alberta, including all of Mountain View and Red Deer Counties.