



WCAS Technical Meeting Meeting Notes

November 24, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Main Board Room
Penn West Building, 50th Avenue West
Drayton Valley, AB

In Attendance:

Dave Stewart	Talisman Energy
Steven Probert	Capital Health
Gwen Wood	EUB
Jerry Navarro	TransAlta
Robert Kitching	Brazeau County

WCAS:

Bob Scotten	Executive Director
Patrick Andersen	Environmental Specialist
Greg Swain	Senior Technologist

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 1: Greg to develop an equipment replacement plan to present to the board.

Action Item 2: Jerry to determine what provisions are in place for equipment replacement at the Epcor/Transalta stations.

Action Item 3: Bob to determine the costs involved in implementing H₂S monitoring.

1. Welcome and Introductions/Approval of Agenda

Bob Scotten called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Committee members were welcomed and the agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion introduced by Bob on implementing H₂S monitoring in the network. Greg wished to discuss the new data acquisition software implementation.

2. Hightower Station Update

Bob reported that Hightower construction is moving forward. The structure is in place, the backup propane generator installed and operational as of today (November 24th), the concrete and bases for the wind towers and solar panels are in place, the guy wire screws for the wind towers are installed and the telephone line is installed as of today (November 24th). Bob expressed confidence that technicians would be able to begin installing equipment the following week and begin collecting data as equipment is brought online. Greg expects that the first data should be collectable in the second week of December.

Bob indicated that the project has come in within budget and as the equipment has been supplied by NAPS (National Air Pollution Surveillance Network), all repairs over \$500 will be covered by them.

Robert indicated that propane delivery timing is an issue in the area and that any refueling should be done well in advance. Bob indicated that the backup system is fuelled by a 1000 gallon tank that is expected to provide enough fuel for the winter, if not all year.

3. Reactivation of Steeper

Bob met with Dave Brand of Sherritt International Corp. to discuss the reactivation of the Steeper monitoring site. Alberta Environment has required that Sherritt must have an air monitoring station operational as part of their licensing requirement. When the station was deactivated, it was indicated that if the station were to be reactivated, that Sherritt would supply a building. Bob went out to look at some candidate buildings offered by Sherritt, and all were found to be inadequate. Greg indicated that Alberta Environment has an equipped, portable trailer designated for temporary loan to the airsheds and that it may be a good temporary solution, if it is not already allocated.

General discussion indicated that the actual requirements imposed by Alberta Environment are unclear, including the type of monitoring as well as a timeline. It was suggested that Sherritt should determine what they actually require to be in place before any further action is taken by the board. Steve suggested that if their requirements are uncertain, that the Alberta Environment trailer be put in place to gather impact data to determine their need. Jerry indicated that it is not WCAS's place to take any sort of responsibility for the approval process, only to provide monitoring services.

4. Capital Replacement Review

The proposed 2007 budget has allowed \$75,000 per year for replacement of two analyzers plus regular meteorological equipment replacement. Greg has indicated that the life expectancy of a typical analyzer is approximately 10 years and that many of the analyzers in the network are approaching that benchmark. Greg indicated that as part of the 2006 budget he would like to replace the SO₂ analyzer at Genesee and the O₃ analyzer at Violet Grove as are at the top of his list. Greg also indicated that the current meteorological towers in place require either rental of a bucket truck, which is often difficult to coordinate in the current economic environment, or climbing. As the towers are only rated for 250 lbs, this is not considered a safe alternative for most of the technical staff considering how much baggage they must bring with them to perform their tasks. Greg suggested that the current towers be phased out in place of crank-up models, with an expected replacement cost in the area of \$2,000 to \$2,500 each. Jerry suggested that replacing the towers in batches may be more economical if there is a rebate of some nature involved.

It was indicated that the laptop computers used by the staff are normally replaced every three years or so, and that time is approaching.

Jerry requested a replacement plan from Greg, and that future budgets should probably reflect inflation (**Action Item 1**).

a. Epcor/Transalta Equipment Replacement

Greg indicated that the partisol hardware at these sites should be considered for replacement, as two of the units are becoming unreliable and Warren Kindzierski is becoming concerned with the reliability of the data returned. Jerry indicated that he cannot speak for Epcor, but will look into the agreement with WCAS to determine what provisions were made for hardware replacement (**Action Item 2**).

5. Introduction of H₂S Monitoring

Bob suggested that since there is community concern in the Drayton Valley area over H₂S and the proliferation of sour gas wells in the area, that the board might consider implementing H₂S monitoring

at the Violet Grove station and that analyzers can be acquired for less than \$10,000. Gwen indicated that the Sentinel program is meant to address this issue. Bob indicated that he believes we have a place in monitoring for ambient levels for background health monitoring and that Sentinel is for determining compensation in case of release. Jerry asked who should be paying for the costs of monitoring H₂S and suggested that the cost of adding monitors may not be reasonable to absorb without compensation once manpower is factored in. Bob was charged with gathering more information on the topic and to determine the impact on the capacity of the airshed contractors to perform their current duties (**Action Item 3**).

6. Data Acquisition Software Licensing

Greg indicated that our current license with RSL expires January 1 and that Matthew will have a system with basic functions ready by that time. The technicians will have to return to traditional calibration methods until automated calibration procedures are implemented. Matthew is expected to bring more features on line as the software is refined and expanded. Licensing is set at \$75/trailer/month. Bob feels that having a local programmer will allow for faster troubleshooting of problems and allow for customization of the package.

The technical meeting ended at 10:00 am.