

Animal Health Complaint and Investigation Procedure

May 11, 2005

Outline

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History

- Animal Health Complaint and Investigation process began as 3 year pilot project in September 1998.
- Decision by the steering committee in September 2001 to continue the process.
- Process is contained in an EUB Informational Letter and Memorandum of Understanding (IL/MOU) dated August 29, 2002.

Statistics

- Industry Activity

- Non-abandoned Wells – 195,000
- Oil Facilities – 18,091
- Gas Plants – 804
- Batteries and Compressor Stations – 6,910
- Pipelines – 354,427 kms

Statistics continued

- Animal Health Concerns

- 2000 – 24

- 2001 – 28

- 2002 – 14

- 2003 – 19

- 2004 – 27

- 2005 – 12 (Jan – May 9, 2005)

Total = 124

Informational Letter 2002-04

■ Purpose

- To assist livestock owners and oil/gas companies in resolving situations where it is suspected that an animal health problem is linked to an oil/gas operation or facility.
- Use a science based investigation procedure to determine the cause of the animal health problem.

Informational Letter 2002-04

- Five organizations that provide funding and form the steering committee
 - Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB)
 - Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)
 - Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC)
 - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)
 - Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (SEPAC)

Fundamentals

- Animal Health Investigation process is voluntary – other options outlined in IL/MOU.
- Expectation for open, honest communication and co-operation between all parties involved in an Animal Health Investigation.
- Time is vital to obtain good evidence.
- Does not address compensation.

Animal Health Investigator

- Veterinarian contracted by steering committee (representatives from each of the five organizations).
- Responsible for conducting Animal Health Investigation and conclude in writing a report with findings and recommendations.

Basic of Investigation Process

- Livestock Owner

- Suspects animal health problem linked to oil/gas activity.
- Contacts a veterinarian to investigate cause.
- Contacts the EUB.
- May gather evidence or take photos.
- May contact oil/gas company.

Basic of Investigation Process

- the EUB

- Completes Part A of Complaint Forms and sends to the Animal Health Investigator and leaves Part B and C of the Complaint Form for livestock owner.
- Contacts the oil/gas company and provides a Response Form to complete.
- Addresses regulatory non-compliance that may exist.

Basic of Investigation Process

- Oil/Gas Company

- Contacts Livestock Owner regarding animal health concern.
- Completes Response Form and forwards to Animal Health Investigator.

Basic of Investigation Process

- Livestock Owner

- Completes Part B of Complaint Forms and has their veterinarian complete Part C after finishing a thorough diagnosis of the animal health problem and its cause.
- Ensures Part B and C forwarded to Animal Health Investigator.

Basic of Investigation Process

- Animal Health Investigator

- Reviews Parts A, B, and C of the Complaint Forms and Response Form and assesses if an Animal Health Investigation warranted or feasible.
- If circumstances warrant/feasible, Animal Health Investigation begins.
- Completes investigation provides findings/recommendations in Animal Health Investigation Report.
- Report distributed by Animal Health Investigator to parties involved in Investigation (livestock owner, oil/gas company, etc.).

Basic of Investigation Process continued

- Livestock owner, oil/gas company review Animal Health Investigation Report and may request clarification or correction (within 30 days from the date of the report).
- Animal Health Investigator responds to requests for clarification or corrections (within 60 days from the date of the report).
- Matter considered complete and no appeal process.
- May re-open investigation if new evidence that would fundamentally change findings of Animal Health Investigation becomes available within one year.

Key Message

- Process was developed to help relationships by applying science.
- Important the veterinarian's findings are complete and accurate because the Animal Health Investigator is reliant on the information supplied to complete a thorough investigation.