



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

33rd Yukon Legislative Assembly

NEWS RELEASE

January 2, 2014

WHITEHORSE – The Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing will travel to southern Alberta next week to tour a site where hydraulic fracturing is used and to conduct a number of meetings. The six-member committee will fly to Calgary on Monday, January 6th and return to Whitehorse on January 9th.

“Touring a site where hydraulic fracturing is being used will allow us to see the practice with our own eyes and to learn about the equipment, chemicals, and procedures that are involved,” said Committee Chair Patti McLeod. “Gaining a science-based understanding of hydraulic fracturing is an important part of our mandate and this trip will broaden our knowledge of both the risks and the benefits of the practice.”

While in Calgary and Red Deer, the Committee will meet government officials, non-government organizations (NGOs), industry representatives, academics and concerned groups. The government officials will include health professionals from Alberta Health Services to provide perspectives on the potential risks to human health, officials from the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Department to learn about potential environmental risks, and the Alberta Energy Regulator to learn about how the practice is regulated.

The Committee will also meet with an NGO whose mandate is facilitating communication and co-operation amongst industry, regulatory agencies and affected communities, as well as an NGO that advocates against hydraulic fracturing.

From industry, Committee members will hear from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers as well as the individual company whose site they will tour.

The Committee will also meet with a professor of Geology and Geophysics from the University of Calgary whose research focuses on the impact on groundwater of hydraulic fracturing.

The Committee was established on May 6th, 2013 by a motion in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and is made up of three MLAs from the Government Caucus and three MLAs from the two opposition parties. They are: Patti McLeod (Chair), Lois Moorcroft, Sandy Silver, Hon. Currie Dixon, Jim Tredger and Darius Elias.

The full itinerary is attached.