



October 7, 2010

## Meeting Report: Update on Cumulative Effects Management

### Background:

- Further to the August 10 meeting report, Jack Swainson, Sheri Strydhorst, Ward Toma and Sharon McKinnon met with Alberta Environment's (AENV) Stephanie Clarke, Justin Toner and Trisha Bell on September 10 to discuss crop sector concerns around Cumulative Effects Management (CEM).
- Stephanie explained that AENV currently focuses on mitigating adverse effects on health and the environment on a case by case basis. With the move to a CEM system, they will focus on outcomes – on what they want to achieve and leave more leeway for stakeholders to figure out how they will achieve the outcomes.
- Discussions within AENV and with stakeholders are still at a high level and no one is yet sure how it will all work on the ground.

### Key Messages to AENV:

- The agriculture sector will need to have input into the outcome setting process, particularly on the economics and perhaps social side to balance AENV's focus on health effects and the environment.
- Since most of society doesn't farm and doesn't understand connections between the provision of food and farming practices like pesticide use, we need **well informed** priority setting processes. There is a power imbalance in our society in which agriculture's voice is minimal while potential impacts of land/water use policies on the sector could be significant.
- Agriculture needs to be kept in the loop as government policies are developed so the sector isn't caught off guard by unintended consequences.
- Some examples of how CEM would work in the ag sector would be useful – AENV will work on this.

### ILWG Meeting:

- The Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) met with AENV on September 15 to discuss CEM and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA).

- AENV asked how stakeholders like the agriculture sector want to be encouraged to help meet outcomes. Incentives could include education on best management practices, streamlined regulations and market based approaches.
- Cumulative Effects Directives are intended to encourage desirable outcomes in consultation with all stakeholders. It was pointed out that the term “directive” makes the industry wary – AENV said it may be changed.
- The issue of the “voice” of agriculture was raised again.

### **AEPA Meeting:**

- AENV ADM Bev Yee attended the October 5 Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) meeting to continue their efforts to engage with stakeholders on CEM.
- Yee explained that the CEM system will be risk based meaning that more resources will be directed towards activities with higher risks to the environment.
- Yee asked AEPA how the industry wants to be engaged in outcome setting and in the development of management actions to help meet outcomes.
- AEPA will have further internal discussions on how the industry can and should be engaged.