

Status of Recommendations

Fall 2017

Implementation Timeline by Recommendation Number



This page summarizes recommendations made to improve air quality and reduce offensive odours in Fort McKay. The status and lead agency for each recommendation are indicated below.

[Completed](#) | [In Progress](#) | [Pending](#)

Completed

Recommendation 3: Share oil sands operators' emergency response plans (ERPs)—or relevant sections—with the community of Fort McKay through a regulatory mechanism.

Industry has provided the relevant information from ERPs to the Fort McKay community. Information was shared without the need of a regulatory mechanism.

Lead: AER

Recommendation 7: Provide all parties with access to real-time air monitoring data collected by Environment and Climate Change Canada in the Fort McKay community.

Air quality data from the Oski-ôtin research station are now on the Government of Canada [open data portal](#). Data are available at weekly intervals, typically one week after the data have been collected. Since this information is publicly available, a data-sharing agreement was not required.

Lead: Environment and Climate Change Canada

Recommendation 8: Clarify who is accountable for supporting the complaint response and notification when ambient air monitoring identifies ground-level concentration exceedances, and ensure that this is captured in the odour response protocol described in recommendation 4.

The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) has been confirmed as the agency responsible for reporting to stakeholders, the AER, and the Alberta Government ground-level concentrations that exceed the AAAQO. WBEA has been responsible for reporting exceedances in the past, but this has now been

formalized in the airshed operational contract with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

Lead: AEP

Recommendation 17: Establish an air-quality task force to oversee implementation of the recommendations in the [report](#).

The Fort McKay Air Quality and Odours Advisory Committee (AQOAC) was established in December 2016. The committee is chaired by the AER, Alberta Health, and the Fort McKay First Nation and Métis community, and includes representatives from AEP, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and industry.

Lead: AER

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In progress

Recommendation 1: Monitor ambient air quality for acute concentrations of H₂S and SO₂ for emergency response in the Fort McKay community. Monitoring should be done by AEP and be funded by industry, and acute thresholds for H₂S and SO₂ concentrations should be approved by Alberta Health in discussion with Fort McKay.

Work to review the Waskōw ohci Pimâtisiwin air monitoring station, including the need for additional parameters, began in November 2017 and is being led by Alberta Health and AEP. To support the discussion, the review has begun using the focal parameters list from the [Recurrent Human Health Complaints Technical Synthesis](#) to determine which contaminants have an immediate health impact (i.e., are of acute human-health concern).

Lead: AEP

Recommendation 2: Provide policy guidance on the appropriateness of odour thresholds for emergency response purposes in the Fort McKay community.

Alberta Health will be conducting a jurisdictional review on the use of odour thresholds during emergencies. Work will begin in early 2018, and the results will be shared with the Fort McKay AQOAC to help determine next steps.

Lead: Government of Alberta

Recommendation 4: Develop an odour response protocol that is specific to the Fort McKay community and consistent with the odour management policy of the Government of Alberta.

A draft odour response protocol has been developed and is being tested through a pilot project, which began on November 1, 2017. Joint AER-industry sessions on the protocol were held in October to ensure that oil sands operators understand the procedures and expectations if an odour complaint is received. Testing of the protocol will continue for about six months. Once testing is complete and the protocol has been finalized, the AER and industry will develop an implementation plan.

Lead: AER

Recommendation 5: Develop a checklist of operating conditions that an operator is to complete when an odour complaint is received by the AER and the operator is contacted by the AER.

A draft checklist has been developed as part of the odour response protocol (recommendation 4), which is being tested through a pilot project that began on November 1, 2017. See recommendation 4 for more details.

Lead: AER

Recommendation 9: Assess fixed- and fugitive-emission sources, focusing on the parameters in the air quality focal parameter list (section 6.6.4 of the [report](#)) and on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in order to develop a roadmap for a systematic process for examining the dominant emission sources of the parameters in the focal parameter list.

The subcommittee has reviewed current emission studies and existing monitoring results and measurements to better understand potential emission and odour sources. The next step is to assess and prioritize information gaps to examine dominant emission sources of the parameters in the focal parameter list.

Lead: Industry

Recommendation 13: Assess the health implications on the Fort McKay community based on the ambient monitoring results, specifically the parameters in the air quality and odorant focal parameter lists (section 6.6.4 of the [report](#)) that were in concentrations greater than standards, limits, objectives, and thresholds. The assessment must consider limitations in the data, how applicable the thresholds are to human health, and what it means to the community when parameters are exceeded.

Alberta Health continues to engage with Fort McKay to determine the scope of this recommendation.

Lead: Alberta Health

Recommendation 14: Establish an integrated, consistent approach to air quality monitoring from source (industry emissions) to fence line (Mildred Lake – AMS02, Mannix – AMS05, Lower Camp – AMS11) to ambient monitoring stations (AMS01 and Oski-ôtin). Changes to monitoring should consider contaminants on the air quality focal parameter list (section 6.6.4 of the [report](#)). Consider polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in future monitoring plans.

The AER and AEP will co-chair a subcommittee to address recommendations 14 and 15. Work will include reviewing the way contaminants are monitored at air monitoring stations in and around Fort McKay. The first subcommittee meeting is expected to be held in January 2018.

Lead: AEP

Recommendation 15: Improve the consistency in monitoring H₂S and total reduced sulphur, including examining individual sulphur compounds under the oil sands' ambient air monitoring network.

See recommendation 14.

Lead: AEP

Recommendation 16: Develop and apply ambient air quality policy for parameters that do not have AAAQOs in the areas of odour, ecology, and human health.

Fort McKay AQOAC members are gathering feedback from their respective organizations on potential policy options for managing contaminants identified in the Fort McKay Recurrent Human Health Complaints Technical Synthesis. The feedback will be discussed by the Fort McKay AQOAC in January 2018.

Lead: Government of Alberta

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Pending

Work on the following recommendations are pending, as they depend on the implementation of other recommendations.

Recommendation 6: Provide policy guidance on the use and application of odour thresholds in the Fort McKay community, and clarify how the AER uses environmental protection orders under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* to address offensive odours.

Lead: Government of Alberta

Recommendation 10: Conduct a targeted examination of emissions control based on the findings from recommendation 9, and implement the controls through a multiyear continuous improvement program.

Lead: AER

Recommendation 11: Consider odours generated by project activities when modelling air dispersion for *EPEA* applications and environmental impact assessments, and review the [Air Quality Model Guideline](#) to improve the consistency, among operators, of air dispersion modelling for odours.

Lead: Government of Alberta

Recommendation 12: Review reporting requirements for oil sands *EPEA* approvals in order to improve the consistency of monthly and annual reporting, units of measurements, and quality assurance and quality control; to include additional parameters with AAAQOs; and to consider transparency and public access to the industry reports.

Lead: AER