

STONEY TRAIL OPEN HOUSE - POST COMMUNICATION

BLV held its first Annual Open House Saturday September 8th, 2007. The weather cooperated for the scheduled 11am to 3 pm and then the rain came! Here are the highlights of the day:

- An estimated 300 people attended and over 400 hamburger/hotdogs were served
- Seven bus tours were run to give people the opportunity to see the mining operation at the STAR pit as well as the asphalt plant operation at the Lafarge site across the street
- Display boards were on hand as well as BLV staff to discuss the site with residents.
 - display boards were on hand to illustrate the pit operation and work that had been done prior to the pit opening in 2005
 - a display board was on hand to show how an asphalt plant works and its various components
 - a display board was on hand to show how gravel is used in the construction of a road or highway
 - display boards were on hand to answer questions about emissions and what has been done to reduce dust, odour and noise from the site
- Additionally, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation had representatives on-site, including an air quality consultant, to answer questions and address any concerns. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is taking an active role in listening to concerns from nearby residents and seeking appropriate solutions.
- A number of residents took the time to speak, one-on-one, with provincial representatives and express concerns about asphalt manufacturing on the Spy Hill site. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation staff carefully listened to each person, and are working diligently to address those concerns.

What did we hear?

A number of nearby residents are concerned about the late night noise from asphalt production overnight. The re-paving of Deerfoot Trail this past summer required the contractor to perform the work at night, in order to reduce traffic disruption on the road. This project has ended, and the Stoney Trail asphalt production scheduled for 2007/2008 will not be done during the late night hours. In addition, a muffling system will be added to the burner fan, which usually produces the loudest noise from the asphalt plant.

Some residents told us they are bothered by dust generated from the gravel crushing operation. In response, we have taken a number of measures to reduce the amount of dust that is stirred up during this process. These include watering of haul roads, and watering and control of fine dust removed from the plant as part of the mixing operation.

Several residents are very concerned about the smell that is sometimes generated during asphalt production on site. They have also expressed concerns about the recycled oil that had been used and the chemical composition of emissions from the asphalt plant. Alberta Environment has monitored the emissions from the plant and advised us that these emissions are within acceptable limits. However, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is planning to install a natural gas line to the STAR pit for asphalt production next spring.

It is important to note that all activities to-date have been done in compliance with noise by-laws and all environmental regulations. However, BLV and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation recognize the importance of the concerns expressed by our neighbors and are making every effort to address those concerns.

Stack Testing – Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation has hired Dr. Douglas Leahey, an air quality specialist, to have stack tests undertaken and to model the potential dispersion of the stack emissions. A stack test was done during the nighttime running at the STAR pit and a second stack test was completed on the same plant at a pit located south of Calgary the week of September 10th. Once the results are analyzed by Dr. Leahey, any potential or necessary mitigation identified as a result of this work will also be acted on.

Will there be more asphalt production on site?

Yes. Stoney Trail (northwest) is scheduled to be paved from this site. In 2007 only about one week of production is expected with the remainder in 2008:

- Only daytime operations are planned (Mon.- Sat. 7am – 10 pm, Sun. & Holidays 9 am -10 pm)
- The Stoney Trail project requires asphalt that is mixed at a lower temperature than for the Deerfoot Trail project, which is expected to lower potential emissions and reduce the smell.
- The height of the stack will be increased to provide better dispersion of any emissions
- A muffling systems will be added to the burner fan, which usually produces the loudest noise from the asphalt plant
- Placement of gravel stockpiles will be done to help block any sound leaving the site
- We are examining ways to re-orient the plant on the current site, to direct noise away from residential areas and we are investigating the options for re-location of the plant to a different area of the gravel pit. Again, the goal is to minimize disruption to nearby residents.
- We are looking at alternative fuel sources in order to mitigate concerns about odour. It is planned to have natural gas on-site for 2008.

What are the timelines?

During the brief asphalt production in October, we will be testing the effectiveness of several mitigation strategies in response to concerns about noise and smell from the manufacturing operation. Results from stack testing and subsequent modeling and analysis will also be completed by early November.

There are no current plans to make asphalt on site between November 2007 and April 2008. Depending on the results of the October production, further improvements will be considered. As new information is available it will be posted on the BLV website.