

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

I PREPARED FOR: Minister Rich Coleman, Ministry of Energy and Mines

II ISSUE: Meeting with Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Health, and Ministers regarding the terms of reference and costs associated with a Phase 2 of the human health risk assessment of the oil and gas industry.

II BACKGROUND:

Rapid growth of the oil and gas industry in northeast British Columbia has raised concerns over possible health impacts on communities and individuals. Phase 1 of the Human Health Risk Assessment of the Oil and Gas Industry in Northeastern British Columbia was completed by the Fraser Basin Council for the Ministry of Health. Phase 1 canvassed the public, local governments, First Nations, and other groups and individuals about their health concerns related to oil and gas activity. Ministers will be asked to approve release the Phase 1 report. Once released, there will be an expectation that the Government will commence Phase 2 or identify at a minimum the actions that it will take to address the report .

Phase 2 is intended to look at the concerns raised in Phase 1 and conduct an independent review of existing research related to human health effects of the oil and gas industry and apply this information to northeastern BC.

IV DISCUSSION:

Following the Ministers meeting on April 25th to review the Phase 1 results, ADMs from the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), Ministry of Environment, (MoE), Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) met several times with staff from Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop a budget and approach to implement Phase 2.

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III CONCLUSION

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