

Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting Location: Vulcan	
Date: April 24, 2007	
Start and end time: 6:00 – 8:30	
Number of Attendees from the Public: 18	
Community Features Identified	Recommendations from Community
<p>Social and Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety – significant population growth could affect crime rate, peace and quiet, increased traffic • Community Spirit – needs to be maintained in preference to economic improvements from green energy development. However, it is also recognized that community spirit could be enhanced through community involvement with green energy development projects • Clean Air/Water – need to be maintained • Farming Way of life – new technology should adapt to existing culture ie. Work with farmers, not impose drastic changes • Progressive Attitude – community open to new ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled growth is important so that infrastructure can keep pace. Concern that extensive infrastructure will take resources away from other community assets like recreation, etc. • Scale of projects needs to be appropriate for each community • Recognition of benefits for community youth who work now in energy sector, but will need other employment in the future • Recognition of benefits for keeping community going through offering employment to younger generation.
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming - new development offers opportunities for farmers to change products and access local markets if they choose • Local Market - would provide opportunity for residents to purchase energy locally • Future – potential for job opportunities for local residents in the future, including spin-off or multiplier effect jobs. • Progressive Attitude – community open to new ideas • Barriers – up front capital cost of large projects. Developers will want return on investment • Appropriate Size – projects would need to be scaled appropriately to work for Vulcan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green energy needs to become more economical than traditional sources. This occurs in two ways – green technology becomes less expensive, and consideration given to whether we pay the appropriate amount for traditional energy • Residents are happy to use green energy, but not clear on price premium they are prepared to pay – this is a value question. • Be clear about what green energy really is – if you use a “green” process to heat your home, you may reduce your gas bill, but have a very high electrical bill
<p>Environment and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land - relatively lower land costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good agricultural land • Wind - good potential – “Buffalo Hills” have higher, more consistent winds • Water sources – within regulatory framework and lakes are important and need to be protected • Recreation – lakes, camping opportunities • Waste management – very important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness that people may want development, but not in their back yard. • Fear of the unknown or change • Recognition of generational differences in terms of regard for the environment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative impacts – be aware of increasing oil and gas development in this area has increasing impact on land and environment • Esthetics/landscape – impacted by wind turbines 	
<p>Other Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information requested on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Energy processes – how they work • Consumer options – wind power generation, etc • Credible information about the extent of environmental protection in these processes • Information about impacts on communities where projects such as these are already in place 	<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see sharing of new development projects among communities and counties.