

Debrief from 10/8/2012 Oil/Gas Well Communication Plan Meeting

Attendees: Jonathan Burr (TDEC), R. Evans, K. Hoyt, L. Norwood, P. Schmierbach (TDEC)

- 9/28/2012 Oil and Gas Board Meeting Update (P. Schmierbach)
 - Numerous complaints were filed during the review process from the Environmental groups in attendance
 - Expect continued controversy from "The Clean Water Network" and "The Citizens for Wilderness Planning"
 - The environmental groups will expect public meetings for any planned oil/gas projects on public lands
 - ~~✗~~ ○ Be prepared for the worse from the environmental community – but their actions will not sway the Governor's office resolve/support
 - ~~✗~~ ○ Public officials must be prepared to defend position and guard every word
 - Paul advised group against calling the UT RFP "a research project" since it really entails an oil and gas lease
 - The new name for the Oil and Gas Board will now become the Water Quality/Oil and Gas Board
 - The group decided it would be prudent to have another meeting with the UTIA leadership prior to engaging the environmental community and the press

Points of discussion for 10/26/2012 Meeting

- Review Updated Communication Plan/Timeline
 - What about holding a pro-active "Informational Session" with the Knoxville Editorial Board and/or a field trip with reporters to well sites?
 - Need to consider a way to release the information to the Environmental Groups and the Press "almost" simultaneously
 - What about providing an informational packet to the Environmental Groups at the time of the face-to-face meetings?
 - How many meetings should we have with the Environmental Groups?
 - First meeting with The Nature Conservancy
 - Follow-up meeting with other invited groups (open sessions)
- Should we consider restructuring the RFP such that:
 - An oil and gas company would have the opportunity to lease the North or South tract independently of the entire landbase
 - UTIA leases only a small portion of the property with the intent of opening up additional areas upon satisfactory completion research/demonstration projects